

Sudan says army killed 52 rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese army said Tuesday its troops killed 52 rebels and wounded 150 when they stormed two rebel camps in the southern Bahr Al Ghazal region. A military communiqué said two soldiers were slightly wounded in the assault on the camps east of the town of Gogrial Friday. The fighting was the first announced by the army since a peace accord was signed in Addis Ababa 13 days ago by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and a junior partner in Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's coalition government.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Bhutto meets Soviet envoy to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Benazir Bhutto, appearing increasingly likely to become Pakistan's next prime minister, had lunch with Soviet Ambassador Victor Yakovlev Tuesday at his embassy. An embassy statement said they discussed "international and bilateral issues" but did not elaborate. Details of the talks were not immediately available from Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) which has made clear its support for guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government. Pakistan's acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is to name the new prime minister Thursday.

'5,000 executed in Iran since August'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Tuesday that Iranian authorities executed more than 5,000 political prisoners in the last four months in a crackdown on dissidents. The Baghdad-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, in a telex received in Nicosia, said it had sent the names and details of 200 political prisoners executed in Iran from August to November to the United Nations. Mujahedeen leader Masoud Rajavi telexed the names to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and General Assembly President Dante Caputo, the foreign minister of Argentina, the group added.

Iranian militia practices tactics

NICOSIA (R) — More than 600,000 militiamen set up road blocks, searched cars and staged mock attacks on buildings in anti-guerrilla exercises in dozens of Iranian cities Tuesday, Tehran Radio reported. It said the exercise was aimed at improving the ability "to confront possible plots by enemies of the revolution." The radio said 25,000 militiamen took part in a building demolition exercise in one Tehran Square while defence against poison gas attacks was demonstrated in another square.

Tamir denies visit unauthorised

TEL AVIV (AP) — The foreign ministry director general Tuesday denied charges by ministry officials that he embarked on his current visit to the Soviet Union with prior authorisation. "I have not yet made a trip that needed permission without first receiving permission," Avraham Tamir told Israel Radio in a telephone interview from Moscow. Tamir is the highest-ranking Israeli to visit the Soviet Union since Moscow cut ties with Israel after the 1967 war. He met with members of an Israeli consular delegation in Moscow. Ministry officials said Monday that Tamir had not coordinated the trip with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and that the visit could cause Israeli embarrassment with the Soviets.

Sri Lanka gunmen shoot dead 15

COLOMBO (R) — Gunmen have shot dead 15 people in Sri Lanka in the past 24 hours, the military said Tuesday. A military report said the victims, gunned down in incidents across the Indian Ocean island, were mostly civilians known to be supporters of the government. The government has accused the People's Liberation Front, whose members are mainly from Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority, of mounting violent protests to topple President Juvanes Jayewardene's government. Security forces arrested more than 400 suspected front rebels in house-to-house searches in the suburbs of the capital Colombo at the weekend.

Lagos bans debate on Sharia

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government has called a halt to constant rowing in the constituent assembly over the status of Sharia, Islamic law, in the 21-state federation. Chief of General Staff Augustus Aikhomu told the assembly Monday it should cancel debate on the sections of the draft constitution dealing with the federal judiciary including the role of Sharia courts.

Estonian minister backs Gorbachev

HELSINKI (R) — The foreign minister of Soviet Estonia, whose parliament has voted itself the right to veto Soviet laws within its territory, declared his support Tuesday for Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his reforms. As the federal Soviet parliament met in Moscow to approve sweeping constitutional changes (see page 8), Foreign Minister Arnold Green said his republic's action had been in support of Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform programme. Green made his remarks to reporters who questioned him at a meeting of participants in a forthcoming children's welfare conference.

26 killed in attack on Burmese train

BANGKOK (R) — Guerrillas attacked a Burmese train southeast of Rangoon Tuesday, killing 26 people and injuring 20, Rangoon Radio reported. The radio, monitored in Bangkok, said members of the Mon ethnic minority blew up the line beneath a passenger train between Ye and Moulmein near the town of Mankipin, then opened fire with small arms at the carriages. The Mon are one of more than a dozen ethnic groups, many of them along the borders, fighting the Rangoon government for more autonomy. The attack took place in an area where Karen guerrillas have also operated.

Dali in intensive care unit

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Spanish artist Salvador Dali, 84, was in the intensive care unit of a Barcelona hospital with severe heart and breathing trouble Tuesday but visitors said he seemed slightly better. "He wants to live, and this is an encouragement to doctors," government spokeswoman Rosa Conde told reporters after calling on the surrealist painter at the city's Quiron Clinic. She said he had asked a television set to watch reports about his health. Dali, a contemporary of Pablo Picasso and the most controversial of Spain's great 20th-century painters, was taken from hospital in his hometown of Figueras to Barcelona Monday night after suffering a blood clot in his lung. One doctor said his life was "in the hands of God."

Mitchell elected Democratic leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate democrats elected George Mitchell of Maine Tuesday as their leader and the man who will guide the Democratic majority through its coming skirmishes with George Bush's White House, sources said. A New England liberal like defeated Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, Mitchell's foreign policy and international trade record has adhered to mainstream Democratic Party lines in opposing several key initiatives of President Ronald Reagan. Senate republicans meanwhile reelected Bob Dole as their leader Tuesday.

Chad raises new anti-Libyan charges

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad said Libyan MIG fighters violated its northern airspace Tuesday, a day after Chad announced it had shot down a Libyan military plane in the same area. Chad, which has been observing a one-year-old ceasefire with Libya over their disputed border, reported the alleged fresh violations on the mid-day radio news, less than 24 hours after a government communiqué said a Libyan plane had been shot down and its two pilots captured. Earlier Tuesday Libya said Chadian forces had opened fire on a civil Libyan aircraft whose pilots had got lost on a training flight and forced it to land.

PNC decisions qualitative step for peace, King tells U.N.

NEW YORK (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that Jordan views the Palestinian people's acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 as a big qualitative step towards peace in the Middle East.

"Such acceptance constitutes a step in the right direction to put peace efforts in the right framework to establish just comprehensive and durable peace in the region," the King said in a message to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the eve of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

King Hussein said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), through the resolutions adopted by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in Algiers earlier this month, had done what it was asked to do and contribute to pushing peace efforts forward. "Therefore it is incumbent on the international community to press hard for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East," the King said in the address.

"The Jordanian decision to disengage administrative and legal relations with the West Bank does not mean in any way that Jordan relinquishes its pan-Arab duty toward the Palestinian cause, nor does it mean that Jordan has abandoned its basic role in the Arab-Israeli conflict," the King said.

"The decision was designed to be a qualitative contribution to the Palestinian people's struggle at

this crucial stage," the King said. "Jordan will continue its support for the Palestinian people until the Palestinian struggle achieves its objectives and the Palestinian people exercise their inalienable rights on their national soil."

"The declaration of the 29th November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is an outstanding evidence of the justice of the Palestinian cause and an evidence of the increasing international conviction that the basis for peace in the Middle East lies in achieving justice for the Palestinian people."

King Hussein voiced hope that such an occasion would serve as an opportunity for gaining international commitment for intensified efforts to apply justice, freedom and equality to the Palestinian people.

"At a time when the international conscience began realising the eventuality of applying the values of right, justice and equality and the need for establishing peace all over the world, we sincerely hope that such concern stretches to cover the Palestinian people, whose cause has always been the crux of the conflict in the Middle East," the King said.

"Jordan's commitment towards the Palestine question, since its creation, is a principled commitment dictated by our national and pan-Arab duties. Our interaction with the Palestinian question and the direct bearings of this cause are the

(Continued on page 2)

U.N. to call on U.S. to reverse Arafat visa denial

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— Arab states agreed to introduce a resolution Tuesday that urges the U.S. State Department to grant Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa, allowing him to address the General Assembly in New York, a PLO diplomat said.

M. Nasser Al Kidwa, the second-ranking diplomat in the PLO's U.N. observer mission, said the resolution was to be introduced before a U.N. committee, and may go the full General Assembly later Tuesday or Wednesday.

Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's U.N. ambassador, said that if the State Department doesn't reverse its decision, the General Assembly would move briefly to Europe to hear him.

"If other options are exhausted, then in 24, 36 or 48 hours at the latest, if there is no reversal, we will have no option but to go to a country which respects its obligations to the United Nations, Geneva or Vienna," Maksoud said Monday.

The State Department barred Arafat on the grounds that the

(Continued on page 2)

Strike marks partition plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

— Israeli troops shot and wounded at least 20 Palestinians Tuesday during a general strike in protest against the 1947 U.N. resolution that partitioned Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, hospital officials said.

Most of the 1.7 million residents of the occupied territories observed the general strike.

In the Gaza Strip, the army placed more than half the 650,000 Palestinian residents under curfew.

Jewish settlers accused the army of failing to "protect" them from stone-throwing and began

patrolling West Bank roads in cars flying Israeli flags. They planned to distribute "warning" leaflets in Arab areas.

Hospital officials said a 14-year-old Palestinian boy was seriously wounded in the chest during clashes with troops in Gaza City. Two other protesters were wounded in Jabalya village.

Officials at Al Itihad hospital in Nahliis said they admitted eight Palestinians with wounds. An eight-year-old Palestinian boy was wounded by a plastic bullet in the shoulder in Farah camp near Hebron, military sources and hospital officials said.

Rabin urges Labour to join Likud coalition

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin

Tuesday urged his Labour Party to consider joining a coalition government led by the rival Likud bloc, in order to withstand demands for religious legislation that have angered Jews abroad.

Meanwhile, the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, which made its partnership in a Likud government contingent on passage of the controversial religious bill, threatened to withdraw its support from Likud, a Shas spokesman said.

Likud leader Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will not be able to form a government without Shas' support.

Shamir offered Labour two senior cabinet ministries if the left-leaning party joins a broad based government.

Labour leaders are meeting Wednesday to consider the offer, and some party officials predicted a showdown between Labourites willing to compromise and those who want to sit in parliament as an opposition party.

"The public is worried about the country and not about settling small scores," Rabin said on army radio Tuesday. "The reality we are facing requires the party to seriously examine the possibilities of establishing a broad-based government."

Likud has offered Labour the defence ministry, meaning Rabin would be able to keep his job if Labour joins the government.

"In the first stage after the elections, the two large parties pursued the religious parties in an exaggerated way, and I was a partner to that," Rabin said, referring to the parties' offers to pass religious legislation.

"It is clear to us now that this isolated promises to change things that could create a rift between Israel and the Jewish nation... it seems to me if there is a possibility to prevent this, it will be by establishing a joint government," Rabin said.

Likud won 40 parliamentary seats to Labour's 39 in Nov. 1 elections for the 120-member Knesset. It was chosen to form the government because of its alliances with small right-wing and ultra-orthodox religious parties.

But the religious parties' squabbles over cabinet posts and their demand for controversial legislation have entangled Likud's effort.

The religious parties want a law which would accept only conversions to Judaism performed by orthodox rabbis, angering American Jews who mostly belong to the reform or conservative movements.

Arabs seek Dec. 13-15 session in Geneva

UNITED NATIONS (R)

— Arab states have asked for a deferment of the General Assembly's Palestine debate, set to begin here Thursday, and it will probably take place in Geneva from Dec. 13 to 15, a U.N. source said Tuesday.

The request, not yet made public, follows the refusal of the United States to grant a visa to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to come to New York to address the assembly.

A separate assembly debate on the situation in the Middle East will be held in New York as originally scheduled, beginning next Monday, the senior U.N. secretary said.

General Assembly President Dante Caputo, the foreign minister of Argentina, told the forum Tuesday that he had received a request from Arafat to postpone the Palestine debate, scheduled to begin Thursday.

Since there were no objections, he said, the request was granted. Caputo previously announced the General Assembly would move swiftly to provide Arafat an alternative forum because of the U.S. action.

It would be the first time the General Assembly has moved outside of New York in protest to conduct a regular debate.

Arafat was granted a visa in 1984 to address the General Assembly. Much of the criticism levelled at the United States for its decision Saturday cited the position taken by the Palestine National Council at a meeting earlier this month in Algeria.

The Iraqi leader, who studied in Cairo during the 1960s, earlier took a journey through the city with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The trip appeared designed to highlight a relationship between the two leaders.

Mubarak and Hussein raced through Cairo in the middle of a motorcade of black limousines, slowing for a look over the Nile River and stopping briefly at the Giza Pyramids.

They later took the presidential box at Cairo's New Opera House to see part of a ballet performed by a visiting Soviet troupe.

Hussein told reporters he hoped Mubarak would participate in the next summit of the Arab

League, from which Egypt is suspended.

In private talks, Mubarak and Hussein discussed Gulf peace negotiations and the U.S. refusal to give Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa to address the United Nations in New York.

Both leaders urged Washington to reconsider. "This decision implies a great offence, not only to Arafat, but to all Arabs and the whole world," Hussein said.

Mubarak said he had sent a message to President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz asking them to change their position on the visa.

On efforts for peace with Iran Hussein said: "The Iranians are still dragging their feet in making decisions on important issues. It is natural that they drag their feet also in taking a firm and final decision regarding (the exchange of) war prisoners."

He apparently referred to Sunday's announcement by Iran that it was suspending an exchange of sick and disabled prisoners with Iraq.

King, N. Yemeni leader review Arab coordination

SANAA (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Tuesday for talks with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah

Saleh on the latest developments in the Middle East and the Arab and international scenes and Arab coordination.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King's talks with

Saleh were expected to cover means to coordinate Arab stands in the face of challenges facing the Arab Nation and that the King's visit to North Yemen came within the framework of his consultations with Arab leaders.

It was expected that the recent decisions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) and ongoing efforts to strengthen support for the Palestinian cause would figure high in the Sanaa talks.

The King arrived here earlier in the day on a two-state visit which will take him to Egypt from North Yemen.

The King, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, was received upon arrival here by the North Yemeni president, Shura Council President Abdul Karim Abdullah Al Arshi, Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Gbani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Idrisi, Minister of Development Mohammad Sa'id Al Attar and other senior officials as well as heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Sanaa and the Jordanian ambassador to North Yemen.

Upon his departure from Amman, the King was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was earlier sworn in as Regent. His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein and other senior officials as well as the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan and the North Yemeni charge d'affaires.

One of the major issues expected to be tackled in the King's talks with President Saleh in Sanaa and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo is Arab coordination following the U.S. refusal to grant an entry visa to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to address the special U.N. General Assembly session on Palestine in New York.

Jordan and Egypt are spearheading an effort to shift the session on Palestine from New

York to Geneva in wake of the American decision so that Arafat can address the world body and present the Palestinian position and peace strategy to the international community.



His Majesty King Hussein is received by North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa, North Yemen, upon arrival there on a working visit (Petra wirephoto)

Klibi ends two-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab League Secretary General Chadi

Klibi left Amman Tuesday following a two-day visit during which he briefed His Majesty King Hussein on his recent contacts over convening an Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

Klibi and the King discussed efforts to move the U.N. General

Assembly session on Palestine to Geneva from New York to enable Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to address the international community and present the Palestinian position.

Upon his departure, Klibi was seen off by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.



Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (left) confers with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi at Amman airport Wednesday prior to Klibi's departure after a two-day visit (Petra photo)

Iraq-Egypt ties seen boosted

CAIRO (R) — A nine-hour visit to Egypt by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, his first foreign trip since fighting ended in the Gulf war, underscored a close alliance between the two states.

"This meeting reminds us of our responsibilities to the Arab Nation as well as our responsibilities to our countries," Hussein told reporters before leaving Cairo Monday night.

The Iraqi leader, who studied in Cairo during the 1960s, earlier took a journey through the city with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The trip appeared designed to highlight a relationship between the two leaders.

Mubarak and Hussein raced through Cairo in the middle of a motorcade of black limousines, slowing for a look over the Nile River and stopping briefly at the Giza Pyramids.

They later took the presidential box at Cairo's New Opera House to see part of a ballet performed by a visiting Soviet troupe.

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Both leaders urged Washington to reconsider. "This decision implies a great offence, not only to Arafat, but to all Arabs and the whole world," Hussein said.

Mubarak said he had sent a message to President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz asking them to change their position on the visa.

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He apparently referred to Sunday's announcement by Iran that it was suspending an exchange of sick and disabled prisoners with Iraq.

FLN renounces monopoly, backs Benjedid

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's ruling party has renounced the monopoly of power it has enjoyed for the last quarter of a century and endorsed Chadli Benjedid for a third five-year mandate as president.

A two-day congress of the National Liberation Front (FLN) Monday approved political reforms which preserve the one-party system but open the FLN to different opinions and allow independent candidates to challenge it in elections.

Benjedid had staked his political future on pushing the reform through against party hardliners. Once he had done this, his nomination as sole candidate in presidential elections Dec. 22 be-

came a foregone conclusion.

In his acceptance speech he said his nomination meant support for the changes, which he proposed in October after a week of riots in protest against economic austerity.

Under the reforms, the party will again become an umbrella group for different political trends, as it was during the fight against French colonial rule from 1954 until independence in 1962.

Critics say the FLN later developed into a monolithic and self-perpetuating elite impervious to change and insensitive to the views of outsiders.

The criticism has been particularly severe in the months since the riots, with independent

groups springing up to demand a role in Algerian politics.

The congress did not spell out in detail who would be able to join the new look FLN. But Benjedid told the closing session: "We welcome any sincere patriotic element who is committed to... the choices of the Algerian people."

"I need your help because the mission is difficult, the task is long and the problems are great," the president told the 5,078 delegates to the congress in his closing speech.

"The renewal of your confidence is a support for the political reform proposals, of which a part already have been applied and others are going to be. I promise

to do my best to implement your political programme."

He did not say what the reforms would be.

However, a multiparty system Benjedid hinted at in his speech opening the congress has been delayed. Benjedid said that although such a move was possible in the future, for now it would only endanger national unity.

Algerians, beset by high prices, high unemployment and shortages of housing, have high expectations for the new administration.

The onset of the economic crisis was brought about in large part by Algeria's external debt, the president said Sunday.

Afghan rebels announce talks with Moscow

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels said Tuesday they were due to meet a senior Soviet delegation for their first substantive talks in the 10-year-old guerrilla war.

No confirmation was immediately available from the Soviet side. Diplomatic sources said the meeting had been under discussion for several days and was likely to take place in Saudi Arabia in the first few days of December.

One of the sources cautioned that the Kremlin had not committed itself to attend. "It's not actually set in concrete," he said.

Another source said the seven-party rebel alliance was still divided on the issue. "It has developed very rapidly, it's a very fluid set-up."

According to spokesmen from three rebel parties, current alliance chief Burhanuddin Rabbani will head the rebel side and senior Kremlin aide Yuli Vorontsov the Soviet team.

"It means the Soviets are willing to negotiate, it means recognition of the Mujahideen," Hamid Karzai of the Jihadi-Nijat-Milli party said.

The Kremlin has previously refused to talk to the Western-backed rebels and the guerrillas have rejected any idea of negotiating with the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

The rebel spokesmen said two of the seven parties, led by Yonnis Khalis and Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, were opposed to the talks. But the other five had overruled them at a meeting in the north-west Pakistan town of Peshawar Monday.

The team would consist of Rabbani, Jihadi chief Sighatullah Mojaddidi, and Abdul Qadir Keryah, a leading member of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezbi-Islami Party.

The spokesmen said initially the team would leave Tuesday night or Wednesday for Jeddah. But they said later the departure was likely to be delayed and the talks perhaps held in Riyadh, not Jeddah.

One diplomatic source said the premature announcement of the talks could embarrass the Soviet Union and prompt them to postpone or even cancel the meeting.

"It could do a lot of damage, it's another example of 'foot-in-mouth disease'," the source said. "I wish I could say it was all signed and sealed."

The first direct rebel-Soviet contacts in Pakistan came last Sunday when low-level delegations met in Islamabad.

The Soviet side said they came to discuss the release of Soviet soldiers held captive by the rebels, but the guerrillas said they also raised other matters.



James P. Grant

UNICEF launches Iran, Iraq programme

PARIS (AP) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has launched a \$10 million campaign to restore health services for mothers and children in war-ravaged areas of Iran and Iraq.

Executive Director James P. Grant said Tuesday.

He said a major effort would be made to extend highly successful programmes that each country has to reduce infant mortality to an estimated two million people in these areas.

"This is the first action of rebuilding the war-torn areas in which both countries are implicitly involved," Grant said. "The fact that children are concerned is a prelude for working together in other areas."

Grant spoke at a news conference after arriving from a six-day trip to Iran and Iraq during which he met health ministers and other government officials.

He said he flew Saturday on the first direct flight between Tehran and Baghdad in eight years aboard a U.N. aircraft, which he called "another encouraging sign" that stability was returning.

The UNICEF campaign follows a ceasefire in the war negotiated by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has brought the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq together several times for negotiations aimed at a peace settlement.

Grant said the first emergency medical supplies — equipment for midwives, refrigerators for vaccines and stethoscopes — had begun arriving in the five provinces in Iran and seven in Iraq that the campaign will cover.

He said he would begin seeking funds to support the effort from governments and humanitarian associations. He said Sweden and Italy already had contributed.

The \$1 million to get the programme started came from UNICEF emergency funds.

Speaking about the two countries' infant mortality programmes, Grant said Iran had cut its rate by half since 1980, which means that 100,000 children who would have died had conditions remained unchanged did not.

He said this had "never been accomplished in the Western industrialised democracies. They are reducing infant deaths faster than anywhere in the West," through a vigorous effort to apply new health technologies involving parents, teachers and health officials.

Bethlehem cancels Christmas festivities

BETHLEHEM, occupied West Bank (AP) — The joyous celebrations that mark Christmas in Jesus' birthplace have been cancelled by officials of this town to express solidarity with the year-long uprising against Israeli occupation.

"We don't see any reason to celebrate Christmas. We have to show concern for our dead and for our detainees," Deputy Mayor Hanna Nissan told the AP Monday.

He said the city called off all official celebrations, such as the Christmas Eve reception for Israeli and Palestinian dignitaries and the annual boy scout parade.

Manger Square, usually decorated with streamers of bright coloured lights, will remain dark, and the square's 40-foot Christmas tree will stay bare, he said.

Church officials said mass would be celebrated in the Church of the Nativity as usual, but no decision had been made on whether the Latin patriarch would lead a religious procession in Manger Square.

Even before the city's decision, the uprising had left its mark on the town of 50,000, located seven kilometres south of Jerusalem.

During a visit Monday, shops were shuttered and streets deserted as residents observed a general strike called by the underground leadership of the uprising.

Machine-gun toting Israeli soldiers patrolled the main highway into town and guarded Manger Square from two rooftop lookouts. Five soldiers were camped out in the square.

About half a dozen tourist buses were parked in the square adjacent to the Church of the Nativity, sharply down from pre-uprising levels when as many as 50 buses squeezed into the square at any time. Tourists were quickly ushered through the church and then hurried back to their buses.

U.N. counsel rejects U.S. law cited in Arafat row

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The law that the U.S. State Department is citing to deny Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat an entry visa specifically allows visits to U.N. headquarters by foreign guests, according to the U.N.'s top lawyer.

The State Department has barred Arafat on the grounds that the PLO commits acts of "terrorism" that Arafat "knows of, condones and lends support to."

Carl-August Fleischhauer, the U.N.'s legal counsel, told the Committee on Relations with the Host Country that the State Department was basing its case on a U.S. law that Congress incorporated into the 1947 U.N. headquarters agreement when it accepted the treaty. The U.N. does not recognise the American law.

The law preserves America's right to "safeguard its own security and completely to control the entrance of aliens into any territory of the United States other than the headquarters district and its immediate vicinity... and such areas as it is reasonably necessary to traverse in transit between the same and foreign countries."

He also told the committee that in the 1950s, Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld engaged in negotiations with Arafat over the headquarters agreement, in which the United Nations agreed to accept him as its representative, but that the right of U.N. visitors to come and go had not been abridged.

Patricia M. Byrne, the third-ranking ambassador at America's U.N. mission, said the United States disagreed with Fleischhauer's assessment, but did not offer any detailed defence of the State Department.

The current secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, said Sunday the State Department's denial of Arafat's visa "is incompatible with the obligations of the host country under the headquarters agreement."

The headquarters agreement states that local, state and U.S. authorities must not impede the travel of U.N. diplomats or "representatives of non-governmental organisations recognised by the United Nations for the purpose of consultation."

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Patricia M. Byrne, the third-ranking ambassador at America's U.N. mission, said the United States disagreed with Fleischhauer's assessment, but did not offer any detailed defence of the State Department.

The current secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, said Sunday the State Department's denial of Arafat's visa "is incompatible with the obligations of the host country under the headquarters agreement."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt, Israel pursue Taba talks

ROME (R) — Egyptian and Israeli officials met Monday for talks on the implementation of an agreement restoring the beach enclave of Taba to Egypt. An Israeli embassy spokesman said the Rome talks were on technical issues and would continue Tuesday. Taba, a 700-metre strip of land at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba, was occupied by Israel in 1967. Israel and Egypt later submitted the disputed ownership of the land to arbitration and last September a five-judge panel restored the land to Egypt. One round of talks on implementation of the award has already been held in New York. The Rome talks are being held at the headquarters of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), an 11-nation force which monitors the 1979 Egypt-Israel treaty.

France: Turkey should wait for EEC entry

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand told Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal Monday that his country should not be allowed to join the European Economic Community until 1993 at the earliest, French officials said. Ozal, in France for a two-day visit, was told by Mitterrand that France had no objections in principle to Turkey joining, but that no new members should be allowed before the EEC's integrated market was introduced in 1993, they added. Ozal lunched with Mitterrand before heading talks with Prime Minister Michel Rocard. Mitterrand told Ozal that Turkey should use the time before 1993 to "build the base for future membership," the official said, adding Paris considered the prime minister was improving Turkey's human rights performance. Rocard told reporters afterwards that Ozal's visit — the first by a Turkish prime minister for 16 years — was the climax of four years of efforts to improve ties between the two countries.

W. German shot dead in Turkish zone

ANKARA (R) — A West German man was shot dead in a military zone in western Turkey by army sentries, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Tuesday. West German embassy sources in Ankara confirmed the incident and named the man as Horst Nemeth, 36, from Friedburg in Hessen province. Nemeth was driving in a restricted zone Monday in the western Balikesir province, 400 kilometres west of Ankara when he was called to halt by military guards, the agency said. The sentries opened fire on Nemeth's car who he refused to heed the call, shooting him dead, it said.

Bahrain to hold Gulf women's conference

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain will hold a regional conference in March next year on the position of women in Arab Gulf states, officials said Tuesday. Bahrain's Social Affairs Director Jamil Al Jishi told reporters the conference, the fifth of its kind, would discuss the role of the family and children in rapidly-changing Gulf society. About 100 delegates from Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and North and South Yemen were expected to attend.

Sudan, Libya discuss unity

KHARTOUM (AP) — Libya's defence minister arrived Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi on unifying the two countries. "It's the right of the two Arab peoples of Sudan and Libya to unite," Abu Bakr Yunis told reporters at Khartoum international airport. Sudanese foreign minister Hussein Abu Saleh signed an agreement this fall stipulating that the two countries would start talks on unity. It caused a furor of protest among Sudan's more than 30 political parties. Mahdi told the Associated Press in an interview that Sudan wanted to "formalise its relations" with Libya as it had with Egypt. He said discussions with Libya involved an arrangement similar to a brotherhood accord between Khartoum and Cairo, which promotes close cooperation in all fields. But he said Libya wants greater political unity.

Mahfouz's daughters to receive his prize

CAIRO (AP) — The two daughters of Naguib Mahfouz, this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, will travel to Sweden next month to receive the award because their father's health is too frail, their mother said Tuesday. Attiyatallah, Mahfouz's wife of 34 years, said Om Kalthoum and Fatma would be accompanied by Mohammed Salaway, an under-secretary at the Ministry of Culture and a well-known Egyptian literary figure. Om Kalthoum is a graduate of the American University in Cairo who majored in mass communications. Fatma received a secretarial degree from the same university. They both work in Cairo.

Turkey: Dialogue alone will not end disputes

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Tuesday its dialogue with Greece would not in itself resolve their disputes but it could act as a route towards ending them. "We have over stated that the Davos process was a solution... we have stressed that this dialogue was a beginning," Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz told parliament. "The solution of bilateral issues depends on the common sense, realism and foresight of the leaders on both sides of the Aegean," he said. A process of reconciliation after three decades of enmity over such issues as Cyprus and Aegean Sea rights started last January when Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu met in the Swiss resort of Davos.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PNC contributed to peace efforts — King

(Continued from page 1)

natural outcome of our distinguished relations with Palestine and the Palestinians. This relation is based on the historic unity, geography, the intermingling of the population, cultural interaction and economic integration in addition to a common destiny.

"The King said, 'We in Jordan have never hesitated to shoulder our great historic responsibilities arising from that commitment and that relation. The Palestine question has remained the major concern of my family, which has made great sacrifices for it since the beginning of this century, and it is my major preoccupation.'"

The King said, the Palestine question represents "a trust for us and therefore we strive to keep it by the power of right and to carry the message of right and justice to the whole world."

"Jordan's preoccupation with the Palestine cause and its interaction with it dates back to the creation of the Palestine question," the King said. "Since then Jordan has always been making every possible effort and mobilising its resources in service of this cause."

Jordan responded in April 1950 to the Palestinian people's request for unity with Jordan, and "such a unity was a model for the constitutional unity which was achieved voluntarily."

"It called for adherence to the historic rights of the Palestinian people and for safeguarding these rights in any final settlement which is in harmony with international legitimacy."

"Since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank

and Gaza Strip in 1967, we adhered to a firm policy of supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as much as the circumstances allow us and we have been working hard to reach at a just and comprehensive settlement based on international legitimacy as embodied in the United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly 242 and 338.

"Jordan has always been keen to take into consideration the Palestinian aspirations in all its efforts to find a just and comprehensive settlement and has directed all its potentials and resources towards serving the Palestinian interest."

"We have also been keen on supporting the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and coordinating with it to facilitate its participation in any political move as a major party to any final settlement of the Palestine question."

"To realise the PLO wish and in line with the Arab trend to highlight the Palestinian identity, we took our decision to sever administrative and legal relations with the West Bank. It is also for this reason that we blessed the Palestinian uprising that came as a spontaneous reaction to the continued Israeli occupation."

King Hussein said Jordan, as a major party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a full partner to the peace process, "will pursue its efforts to convene an international peace conference for which we canvassed international support and consensus."

The King added that such a conference "is the right forum for achieving just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region and for solving the Palestine question from all its aspects."

U.N. to urge U.S. to reverse visa denial

(Continued from page 1)

PLO commits acts of "terrorism" that he "knows of, condones and lends support to."

In Washington, the State Department said the U.S. decision to deny the visa was "firm and final."

U.N. legal counsel Carl-August Fleischhauer said the United

States was violating the 1947 headquarters agreement, which obligates the host country to grant visas to U.N. guests. He said Arafat should receive a visa (see page 2).

Arafat diplomats called the U.S. decision to deny Arafat a visa a "slap in the face." Allies and rivals of the United States also called for a reversal of its decision.

sioo, saying the denial harmed the prospects for Middle East peace.

Only Israel supported the action.

If the State Department does not grant the visa, the General Assembly could take up a second resolution Thursday or Friday calling for a special session to convene in Geneva.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
15:55 Children's programmes
17:30 Educational programmes
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:10 Wrestling
22:40 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Television magazine

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui En Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:10 Return Journey
22:00 News in English
22:20 Echoes

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9500 KHz, SW
Tel. 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newscast
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Animal Vegetable Mineral
11:30 Book Club
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session

14:00

14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 The Young Sound
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News in Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
17:00 Old Favourites
17:30 Jordan Weekly
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Science Report
18:30 Book Club
18:45 Old Favourites
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary

MUSEUMS

Children's Heritage and Science Museum. Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:12 Sunrise
11:24 Dhuhr

14:12

14:12 'Aar
16:36 Maghreb
17:57 'Isa

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Jabbal Leiwidbeh, Tel. 637783.
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic), Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic), Jabbal Leiwidbeh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic), Jabbal Hussein, Tel. 661757, Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabbal Leiwidbeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622566.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623441.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer), Jabbal Amman, Tel. 678900, chaplain's residence Tel. 625433.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 772361.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Springs School in Shamsiah, Tel. 665326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arab Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Smir, Tel. 811295.

Rabbi's Synagogue (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church)
Interdenominational-cum-ecumenical Ecological Service: Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Tel. 622603, Rev. Yosi.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Salts (Marmou) Tel. 815817, 821264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:10 Agaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:00 Riyadh (RJ)
17:00 Madrid (RJ)
17:05 Paris (RJ)
17:20 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 London, Geneva (RJ)
17:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
20:20 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
11:20 Damascus (AZ)
12:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
13:45 Kuwait (LN)
14:10 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
15:00 Jeddah (SV)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
16:35 Tunis (TU)

20:35

20:35 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)
21:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:55 Agaba (RJ)
10:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Riyadh (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
19:15 Calcutta (RJ)
19:40 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00 Damascus (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
08:25 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
12:10 Rome (AZ)
13:15 Jeddah, Sana'a (TY)
15:00 Kuwait (KU)
15:00 Tripoli (LN)
16:10 Doha (TK)
16:40 Medina, Jeddah (SV)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
17:35 Kuwait (TU)
21:20 Karachi (PK)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and a rise on temperature will occur while winds will be variable and light. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

AMMAN

Dr. Issa Haddad 87907
Dr. Mohammed Aswan 818911
Dr. Khaled Ahmed 73322
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Najm pharmacy 623072
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN: Dr. Issa Haddad 87907
Dr. Mohammed Aswan 818911
Dr. Khaled Ahmed 73322
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Najm pharmacy 623072
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING RECEIVES CABLE OF GOOD WISHES: Greek President Christos Sartzetakis Tuesday sent his best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein, while flying over the Jordanian skies. The Greek president sent a cable wishing King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

KING CONDOLES SULH FAMILY: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of condolences to Al Sulh family in Lebanon, in which he expressed his heartfelt condolences over the death of the late Lebanese Premier Taqiuddin Al Sulh, who passed away Monday. (Petra)

REGENT SENDS CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday delegated Balqa Governor Mujib Al Khreisha to convey his condolences to Al Nsour family over the death of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al Nsour. Prince Hassan also delegated Ma'raq Governor Fayez Abbad to convey his condolences to Al Sirhan family over the death of the late Sheikh Jalal Bali. (Petra)

YADOUDEH GRADUATION: Princess Majda Ra'd Tuesday attended the graduation of a number of ladies from sewing courses, organised by the Yadoudeh Charitable Society, and presented graduates with their certificates. (Petra)

YUGOSLAV NATIONAL DAY: The Yugoslav Ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic Tuesday hosted a reception on the occasion of his country's National Day, which was attended by senior officials and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Jordan. (Petra)

AMERICAN WOMEN ORGANISE BAZAAR: Several Jordanian and international charities will display items and products from their projects at the annual Christmas charity bazaar organised by the American Women of Amman and to be held at the American Community School on Friday, Dec. 2, at 11:00 a.m. Among the items on sale are baked goods, Christmas ornaments and decorations, gifts, games and other foods. The bazaar will also include an adult and children's raffles. All proceeds are to go to charity.

PEOPLE'S ARMY: Two new batches of the people's army recruits were graduated Tuesday during two different celebrations held in North Shouneh and Ajloun. (Petra)

TASK FORCE TO FIGHT LOCUSTS: Emergency task forces were formed in Ramtha district Tuesday to fight locusts in case they enter the Jordanian territories near Ramtha.

AJLOUNI MEETS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Jordan University of Science and Technology President Kamel Ajlouni Tuesday met with the chairman and members of the student organisation's administrative committees and stressed the need for interaction and coordination between the administrative committees and the students. (Petra)

LOAN FOR ZARQA: The Cities and Villages Development Bank has agreed to granting Zarqa Municipality a JD 2.4 million loan to carry out a number of development and services projects. The Zarqa Municipal Council chairman said that JD 750,000 will be used for the construction of pavements and embankments, JD 600,000 for the construction of commercial stores and JD 500,000 for asphaltting the roads. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON WATER SUPPLY: The Water and Irrigation Ministry will participate in the four-day annual conference on sewerage and water supply scheduled to convene in Geneva on Nov. 29. The ministry will also participate in the five-day regional seminar on agricultural guidance affairs due to convene in Morocco on Dec. 5.



Lawzi receives Spanish envoy

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday received Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod. Lawzi discussed with Armengod scopes of cooperation and the strong parliamentary relations between both countries (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

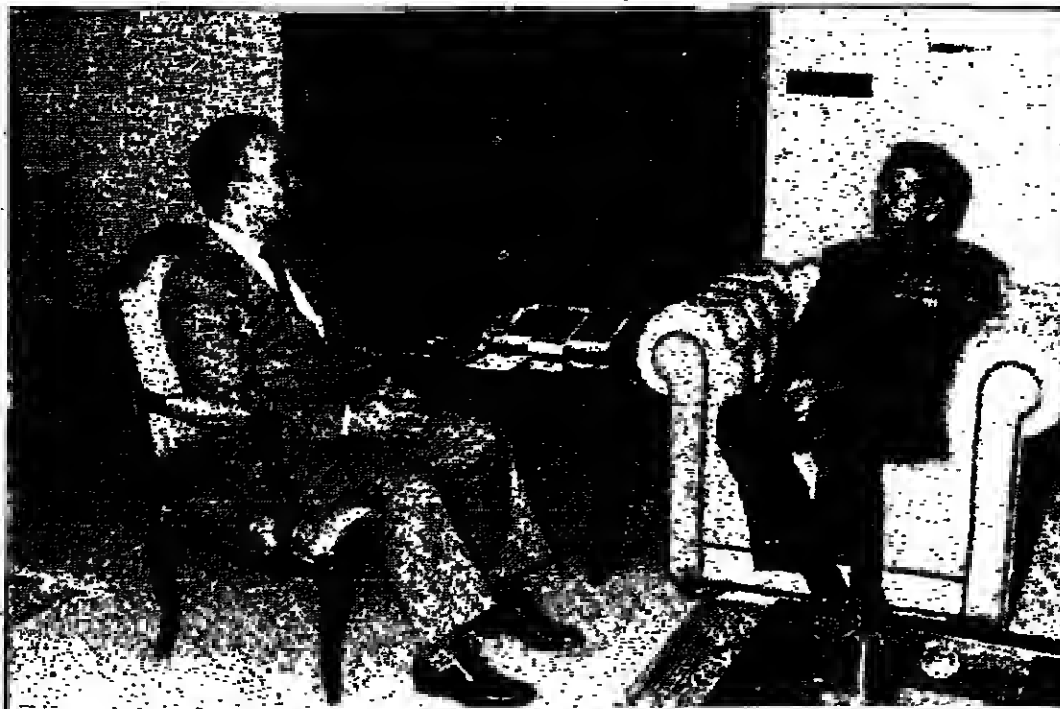
- ☆ An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan.
- ☆ A plastic art exhibition by 55 artists from Irbid Governorate at Irbid Youth Centre.
- ☆ An exhibition covering T.S. Eliot's life and literary works at the British Council.
- ☆ A book exhibition at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ☆ The French week to exhibit the latest techniques used in the field of civil aviation at the Marriott Hotel.
- ☆ A cultural festival which includes a national book exhibition, an art exhibition, historical photos and documents exhibition, children's paintings and other activities at Anjara Public Library building Ajloun.
- ☆ A plastic art exhibition by Fine Arts Department students at the Yarmouk University.
- ☆ An exhibition of graphic art works which show costumes that represent Jordanian national heritage at the Yarmouk University.
- ☆ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ☆ An exhibition on Alia, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Department of Antiquities, Registration and Research Centre.

LECTURE

- ☆ A lecture entitled "Museum education in Bavaria" by Dr. Manfred Vogt at the Museum of Archaeology, the Yarmouk University.

CONCERT

- ☆ A piano concert by Melisande Chauvenet at Amman Baccalaureate School — 8:00 p.m.
- ☆ A piano concert by Mary Stanton at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid.



Crown Prince visits army headquarters

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited the army headquarters in Amman and met for some time with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and the Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb. Discussions at the meeting covered a number of matters of concern to the Armed Forces (Petra photo)

Crown Prince calls for task force to protect environment in provinces

AMMAN (Petra) — The comprehensive development conference, which was opened by His Majesty King Hussein Monday, resumed sessions Tuesday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and discussed a number of recommendations connected with the services and infrastructure sectors.

Prince Hassan addressed the meeting underlining the importance of projecting the concept of decentralisation in the development council's tasks which, he said, should include the creation of a task force to protect the environment in each province.

Prince Hassan also called for the creation of follow up committees grouping representatives

from the public and private sectors and another to deal with the transport sector.

Representatives of various groups and sectors taking part in the meeting submitted working papers recommending the establishment of a unified council representing the private sector, to help the public sector in its development endeavours.

Princess Basma, Duchess of Kent open Ma'an centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, Tuesday visited the social services centres in Ma'an and opened the Princess Basma Special Education Centre there.

Princess Basma presented trophies to a number of social workers in the city in appreciation of their efforts in the field of voluntary work.

Princess Basma and her guest toured the various sections of the centre, inspected the equipment

available there and watched children's drawings exhibition and folkloric dances performed by the Ma'an Youth Troupe.

The Princess Basma Centre was established at the end of 1987 to serve children with moderate to mild mental retardation.

The Princess and her guest also listened to a briefing by director of the social service centres in the governorate on the centres, the services they render to mothers and children and on the women-oriented programmes.

JEA supplies electricity to 2 Tafileh villages

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has supplied two villages, Abu Bina and Diba'a, with electric power by linking them with the national grid. The project in the Tafileh region entailed also laying 6.5 kilometre cables and the installation of transformer stations at the total cost of JD 80,000 according to JEA engineer Riad Kanaan.

He said that at least 300 villagers will benefit from the project which was carried out in the course of implementing a comprehensive network covering the whole of southern Jordanian villages.

Two other villages in the Tafileh region will be supplied with electricity before the end of 1988, Kanaan noted.

He said that by the completion of the two projects nearly 97 per cent of the Jordanian population will have received electric supply.

Jordan to take part in drug manufacturers talks in Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a second meeting by the Arab Union of Drug Manufacturers which is due to convene in Morocco on Dec. 22.

The union's board chairman Nizar Jardaeh told a press conference in Amman Monday that the meeting will discuss means of promoting the manufacture of drugs and medicine in the Arab World in implementation of a resolution taken by Arab health

ministers.

The meeting will examine means of ensuring enough supply of medicine for the Arab World and coordination among drug manufacturers in production and marketing of products.

The three-day meeting will also focus attention on raw materials used in the manufacture of drugs, the situation of the drug market in the Arab World and the prospect of joint ventures.

Seminar to discuss road repairs

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on dealing with pits on Jordanian roads and modern road-repair processes will open at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The seminar, which is being organised by the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA) in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality, is expected to discuss working papers dealing with scientific methods in repairing roads and construction, according to JSPRA spokesman Abdul Fattah Tougan.

Tougan said that representatives of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and Jordanian universities will take part in the coming two-day

meeting.

The participants who also represent Greater Amman Municipality, Irbid Municipality, the Jordanian Engineers and Contractors Associations, in addition to road specialists from West Germany and Denmark, will discuss ways to coordinate the work of electricity, water and telecommunications services with the Ministry of Public Works in the process of road construction and repairs.

Participants of Mu'ta seminar visit Arab Potash Company plant

KARAK (Petra) — A four-day seminar on the role of universities in propagating science and technology in rural regions of the Arab World Tuesday reviewed a number of papers, and the participants later visited the Arab Potash Company plant at Ghor Al Safi, near the Dead Sea, and were briefed on production and marketing processes.

The working papers discussed at Tuesday's session tackled steps that should be taken in promoting environmental education, spreading awareness among the members of the public on matters related to the environment and enlisting the schools, community colleges and universities to contribute to this process.

At the Arab Potash Company plant the participants toured the production sections and met with engineers and technicians who explained the production process. The meetings were opened Monday with a speech by Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafza who said that the meeting was being held at a time when the

country was going through a process of overhauling its educational system and urged all concerned to give due attention to the subject of developing rural regions of Jordan.

The seminar which is being

attended by delegates from Jordanian universities, and Arab organisations has been organised by Mu'ta University in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Jordan, Egypt discuss drug industry cooperation

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt Tuesday opened talks on future cooperation in the drug industry, and the prospect of setting up a joint company for the production of primary materials and medical appliances.

Husam Musmar, the director of the Pharmacy and Drug Control Department at the Health Ministry who leads Jordan's delegation to the talks here said that the two sides will also study the Jordanian and Egyptian needs of medicine and drugs before undertaking practical steps to launch joint

ventures.

The talks will cover means of facilitating the registration of Jordanian medicine in Egypt and those produced by Egypt in Jordan, marketing drugs and pharmaceutical products produced by the two countries in the markets of either country and an exchange of information on drug production controls.

The Jordanian delegation will tour a number of pharmaceutical industries and laboratories in Cairo.

Hindawi: New plan aims to raise education level

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Tuesday published an explanatory statement giving details of a general plan for overhauling the educational system in the Kingdom from now until 1994.

Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, who issued the statement, said that the aim of the new system, which was endorsed by the first educational conference last year, is to raise the students' level of general education, enabling them to move up to secondary and higher education or join the Jordanian workforce.

Hindawi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the plan entails extension of the compulsory education stage, removing all barriers separating general education from the vocational training at the secondary level, for the sake of improving the quality of education at this stage, and enabling students to acquire better qualifications in preparation for the higher education stage.

Hindawi explained that the educational conference recommended that the regular education at schools should be composed of two stages. The basic stage which will be of a period of 10 years for students between six and 16 years of age, and a two year secondary stage with students between 16 and 18 years of age.

The secondary stage he said should be composed of two disciplines, academic and vocational, with general education courses

serving as a common denominator for the two disciplines, according to the minister.

He said that the implementation of the conference's resolutions requires a transitional stage which will witness the introduction of new measures in stages and the enactment of new legislations and rules. For this reason, he added, the ministry has worked out the following timetable for the transitional period starting with the 1987-1988 scholastic year, and distributed it to the various schools and departments of education in different provinces.

In the scholastic year 1987-1988: A general unification of education courses at the first secondary level was implemented which resulted in the abolition of a system separating the vocational and academic education streams. For this to happen, students who had passed the secondary stage admission examination, should be distributed to the first secondary classes or to vocational training schools in accordance with annual regulations to be issued by the Ministry of Education.

The ministry's Curricula Department has been entrusted with the task of preparing a working paper to amend courses for the second and third vocational secondary classes so that amend-

ments can be added to the textbooks.

In the 1988-1989 scholastic year, students of the third preparatory class will be promoted to the first secondary class in accordance with their school results and this year no students from these classes will be referred to vocational training centres.

The students of the first secondary class in the current scholastic year will be distributed to academic or vocational training streams in accordance with their school results.

In the 1989-1990 scholastic year, the grades of the students in the second preparatory stage will be recorded to prepare a complete report on these grades by the end of the preparatory stage to help classify students for the academic and vocational streams.

Students of the third preparatory stage in the current scholastic year will be promoted in accordance with their school results and those of the first secondary will be promoted to the secondary classes either in the academic or a vocational streams.

On the 1990-1991 scholastic year the grades of students in the second and third preparatory classes will be compiled to help smooth the classification process at the secondary level.

On the 1991-1992 scholastic year the reports of grades of students in the preparatory level will have been completed to prepare for their classification in the secondary stage. This process will facilitate the distribution of students in the secondary level.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr Tuesday opens a seminar which deals with the negative effects of agricultural projects on the environment (Petra photo)

Jordan to create 'green belt' along badia edge to keep out the desert

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan suffers from pollution problems resulting from the expansion in construction operations at the expense of agricultural land, waste and pesticides, domestic animal enclosures, the encroachment of desert land on arable land and the misuse of chemical fertilisers, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr said Tuesday.

"The protection of the environment remains a major preoccupation for the government which has recently created an 'environment sector' within the present five-year development plan," the minister said upon opening a three-day seminar to deal with the negative effects of agricultural projects on the environment.

The government's plan in this respect, he said, entails the creation of a "green belt," which runs along the edge of the badia region from the north to the south of the country, to serve as a national barrier in the face of the encroaching desert.

The minister noted that the finishing touches are being put to the plan before its implementation.

Jabr noted that an agreement with the International Federation for the Conservation of Nature has been signed paving the way for a national strategy for the protection of the environment from pollution.

The agreement, which will be put into force towards the end of this year, is expected to play a leading role in promoting agriculture and at the same time ensure a better and cleaner environment, the minister added.

He said the Arab ministers responsible for the environment have endorsed a Jordanian proposal for the establishment of a central information unit in Jordan on the environment, and contacts are underway to provide the requirements for its establishment.

"The introduction of modern techniques in agriculture and industry benefitted the Kingdom a great deal, but at the same time numerous negative effects resulted, mostly affecting the en-

vironment, the minister concluded.

Another speaker at the opening session was Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Mervid Al Tal, who outlined the government's efforts and instructions to various industries to protect the environment from pollution.

"Keeping the country clean is essential for preserving health and protecting citizens from diseases," Tal added.

He said pollutants resulting from agricultural activities are considered among the main causes of pollution. This calls for improvements in methods used in the application of fertilisers and pesticides, and educating farmers in modern means of protecting themselves and the environment from materials with dangerous effects."

A representative of the French Naumann Foundation, which is sponsoring the seminar in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, said that industrialised nations' activities have had their negative effects on the developing countries, pointing

out that industrialised nations have been producing millions of tonnes of chemical and dangerous waste which are bound to damage the environment in one way or another.

Pollution resulting in high temperatures in the atmosphere over the past 45 years led to the decline in the size of the ozone layer, and a rise in temperature worldwide posing dangerous consequences on humans and plants, the foundation's representative noted.

A total of 40 working papers, dealing with the sources of pollution in Jordan, the effects of using pesticides and animal husbandry projects and the employment of treated wastewater for agricultural purposes, will be discussed by the meeting which is being attended by Jordanian specialists, representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and experts from Arab and foreign countries.

The seminar will also discuss environmental health, the use of manure and chemical manure and chemical fertilisers and the negative effects of plastic products, such as plastic containers, on the general environment.

THEATRE SEASON OPENS: Deputising for Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri Monday inaugurated the first theatre season for this year, organised by the ministry to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The season includes four plays for adults and children and four symposiums on theatre. The opening ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh and a number of government officials and ambassadors. (Petra)

REQUIEM MASS

A requiem mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 1, 1988 at 5 p.m. at the Saint Mary of Nazareth Church, (Sweith), in memory of the late

GIUSEPPE VINCI

CAVALIERE UFFICIALE O.M.R.I. who passed away in Jerusalem on November 17. His widow Bianca CATAFAGO VINCI and his son Mario together with all the VINCI and relatives invite you to join them in this prayer for the rest of his soul. Condolences will be accepted directly after the mass at the Parish Hall.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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More Israeli than Israelis

THE U.S. administration's pronouncement that its refusal to grant an entry visa to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to address the United Nations General Assembly is firm and final is not just a statement; it should be taken and treated as an American policy document which states, not in so many words as in deeds, that Washington is so closely cuddled with Israel that it has no respect or consideration for the interests and positions of its own allies, leave alone the many Third World countries which have appealed to the U.S. to reconsider its stand.

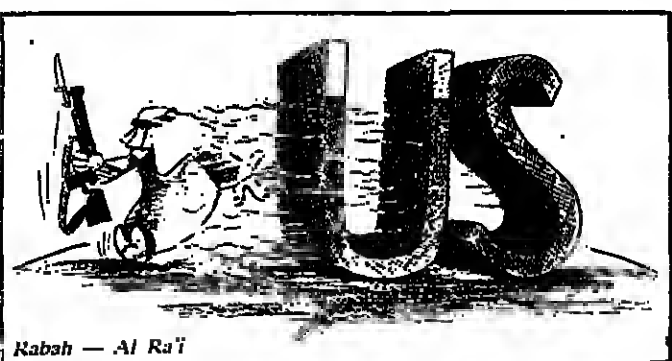
Such a policy declaration, coupled with the dawning realisation that the U.S. has no intention whatsoever of engaging itself in any realistic effort for peace in the Middle East, should be an eye-opener to American allies, who have just seen Washington openly flouting the basic agreement under which the United Nations is headquartered in American territory.

The U.S. has staked its position firmly and clearly. The question remains: Where do we go from here? Regardless of the outcome of efforts to move the special U.N. session on Palestine from New York to Geneva, the fact remains that any meaningful progress towards peace in the Middle East based on a just, fair and comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement will remain elusive as long as the U.S. extends all-out, blind support to Israel and tries to be more Israeli than Israelis themselves.

Sooner or later, the scenario will turn into one of the U.S., Israel and a handful of their allies pitted against the rest of the world. Lines will have to be drawn as to what extent each individual country is willing to go in the political and diplomatic confrontation.

It is time Washington did some hard thinking, and decide whether such a scenario will be compatible with American interests, whether on the official level or otherwise.

But one thing is certain; the more Washington clings on to its intransigence and maintains deaf ears to the voice of reason and justice, the better the climate for hardened positions and extremism will be.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday tackled the King's address at the comprehensive development meeting in Amman in which he explained the dimensions and the far-reaching objectives of the coming stage in Jordan's economic life. The coming phase should be one for correction and adaptation and adjustment to new realities and new situations and one that would help the country move ahead into the 21st century, the paper said. What the King urged is an intensified effort on the part of all citizens so that the country can overcome its present circumstances and what is wanted is a genuine rationalisation of the spending that would save funds to be invested in income generating projects, the paper added. The King, the paper continued, linked the people's determination with the country's potentials and said the process of adaptation can succeed if plans are laid on sound basis and if citizens are genuinely oriented to serving the national interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments on the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People which falls on Nov. 29 and says that this year the anniversary coincides with two important events. According to Ibrahim Sakikha, one of these events is the on-going uprising in the occupied Palestinian land and the other is the proclamation of the Palestinian state. What could be another important event, he says was the address of PLO leader Yasser Arafat before the U.N. General Assembly in New York had it not been for Washington's unexpected decision to bar the Palestinian leader from entering the United States. Nov. 29 as is known marks the anniversary of the U.N. General Assembly resolution on the partition of Palestine into an Arab and Israeli state. But for the U.S. incalculable decision, says the writer, Arafat will not be now addressing the General Assembly, presenting the Palestinian people's case and seeking further assistance for the establishment of a just peace.

Al Dustour daily commented on King Hussein's address to the development councils meeting on Monday. It was good that the King spoke about the past achievements and the development of the Kingdom over the years despite the hardships and difficulties, a reminder to the citizens to take pride in their accomplishments and their country's successes, said the paper. The monarch also reminded the public of their duty towards the coming generations for whom they have to toil and build and maintain the march of progress, the paper added. It said that having passed through a vast experience the Jordanian people must now be more determined and more insistent on following the same path that leads to prosperity despite the challenges and the current circumstances.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also dwelt on King Hussein's speech to the comprehensive development conference in which the King called on the people to build up a productive society. The paper echoed the King's call on the public to curtail expenditure and innovate means of reinforcing savings and investments in order to be able to guarantee a promising future.

King: Evaluate, build on accomplishments, cure shortcomings

The following is the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's address at the opening session of the Comprehensive Development Conference on Monday, Nov. 28.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Brothers and Sisters

Fellow Citizens

IT GIVES me great pleasure to open this national conference on development which comes at the conclusion of a series of regional meetings in various parts of the Kingdom. In wishing you every success in your deliberations, I hope that this conference will reinforce our current orientation towards the beginning of a new phase of Jordan's economic life; a phase characterised by maturity and growth that is built on qualitative improvement, excellence of service and support for the growth of the production sector through the efforts of labourers and entrepreneurs; all within the framework of an integrated, cooperative and open-minded society closely linked with its Arab environment and the world at large.

I salute your recent efforts in the meetings that were held in our central, southern and northern regions; the results of which I have followed with interest. I hope that the discussions today and tomorrow will crystallise ideas on what should be accomplished by the end of the millennium. I am confident that we, in this brave country, can work diligently and coherently to overcome difficulties and challenges and to move, with God's help, towards new horizons and a bright future.

Brothers and Sisters

At the outset of this new stage, it is essential for us to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of our economic performance. Our objective is to accentuate and build on our positive accomplishments and to identify and cure our shortcomings and limitations. To achieve this it is imperative to reaffirm our commitment to the constance of economic freedom and social justice and to assess new developments in order to arrive at a vision that reflects our common hopes.

The dialogue you have conducted in your previous meetings has been a good example of openness and inter-sectoral linking. This practice is one that would guarantee the continuity of the economic process in a harmonious, closely-knit procedure governed by the belief in a common goal, and positive outlook.

What we have achieved in Jordan to date is worthy of pride. It does not shame us to acknowledge some shortcomings; recalling that those who make no mistakes are those who do not work. Our fate has imposed upon us great responsibilities which we have faced with resolve. In quick survey of our political, economic and military history since the birth of modern Jordan reveals basic facts of which we must be fully aware: Those who do not study their history cannot do justice to their present or plan their future. We in this free and proud land, are students of history, builders of the present and makers of the future.

Since its establishment, Jordan has faced great challenges and found itself involved in a struggle for survival amid difficult situations shaped by international and intra-regional interactions. The history of modern Jordan started right after the First World War. The resultant agreements between the colonial powers involved us in international struggle and in the ambitions of the great powers of the time.

My grandfather, the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein was a man of vision and great insight. In spite of all difficulties, he was able to begin building modern Jordan with the support of his loyal citizens and the Arab nationalists who believed in the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. He always found that the scarcity of natural resources in Jordan frustrated ambitions; yet this did not stop him from building a centrist and moderate country which rests on the principles of faith, hard work and creativity. In the thirties we suffered from the effects of the world depression and then came the Second World War with all its harshness and ferocity. Yet Jordan was able to pull through and build institutions and forge cohesion and unity among its population. At the end of the war, Jordan's quest for independence was crowned by the declaration, in 1946, of an independent Hashemite Kingdom with its own constitution, institutions, an army and all the other components of nationhood in every sense of the word. In 1948, we fought an unequal war and Israel was created on part of Palestine. We paid dearly and were able to maintain Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem and large parts of Palestine.

When I succeeded my father, the late King Talal Ibn Abdullah, I committed myself to carrying the banner of the Great Arab Revolt with clarity of vision and moderation. It was clear to me from the onset that maintaining Jordan's strength required building a sound economy, which was not an easy task in view of the limited natural resources. Many people doubted Jordan's ability to build a viable economic structure.

Yet, we found that the scarcity of the resources along with numerous burdens in the areas of defence and development could be overcome with faith in God, diligent work and belief in ourselves. On this basis, we were able to steer our country through the successive crises and instabilities of our area with a strong will, faith and steadfastness.

Then in the war of 1967, Israel occupied the rest of Palestine and, we were faced with compounded burdens as a result. The economic situation in the country worsened and we had to deal with problems and crises of all kinds, which gave us an outstanding ability to survive hardship. By 1972 the situation took a turn to the better and we proved once again that we were a united and cohesive nation, seasoned by circumstances, with an unequivocal resolve not to be distracted from its purpose.

I entrusted my brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Talal with the responsibility of reconstruction and development. With his dynamism and vitality, dedication and depth of knowledge he was able to rally devoted citizens and mobilise in them the positive values of hard work and perseverance. Thus Jordan was able to steer itself in the right direction and to maintain sustained economic growth. We were also able to pass through the challenges that accompanied the boom years which coincided with the rise in the price of oil. During that period we achieved ideal growth rates without destabilising the social structure. We built various infrastructures, including universities and other institutions of higher learning, schools, hospitals, roads bridges, dams, water networks, electricity and telecommunications in addition to expanding the production base in agriculture, industry and services in tourism and banking. We provided our citizens with all the ingredients that are necessary for decent living, including food, shelter, medical care and social security.

What we have built did not come out of a vacuum and what we enjoy today did not come for free. Every stone we laid is a landmark for the struggle and will of successive generations. What we have built with hard work has evolved into a modern, progressive country that will enrich our future generations. In light of all this we will not accept any step backward. We will not bend before challenges and will not allow incidental circumstances to bring down what has been built in many years of diligent efforts.

Brothers and Sisters

What we have achieved, with God's help, to date has placed us at the threshold of a new era which we are about to enter with confidence. One of the most important prerequisites for success at this stage is to build on the positive and discard the negative.

Positive elements in our society are manifold and God's blessings are countless. We enjoy an unparalleled regional and international reputation. It is a source of pride to see the world point to our country as a shining example of good management and brilliant achievement. Our moderate, reasonable and balanced approach has earned us the confidence that we are qualified and capable of sustained and balanced growth.

As a result, we have become a meeting place of brothers and friends who find that this country and its people offer them what they aspire to in terms of a healthy, welcoming and magnanimous environment where they can solve their problems, arbitrate their differences and accomplish their endeavours.

With the other countries of the world we enjoy relations of mutual respect and cooperation, augmented by our important strategic

location. It is our duty to transform this confidence and this balanced path into a source of benefit and good return to our country and to all those who deal with us. Among the most prominent and positive features of our society, is that our people are educated, cultured, enlightened and creative. The Jordanian citizen has not spared any effort in his quest for knowledge and learning and has not done himself the injustice of idleness and apathy. We must build a productive economy which utilises these capabilities and values in an open-minded approach that is receptive to modern administrative and scientific applications.

We must also recall the political environment in which we live. The Jordanian society has not molded itself in inflexible frames nor has it resorted to extremism. It has not wavered from its centrist and moderate line, and the relationship between the governor and the governed is one that rests on mutual trust and understanding. With God's help, we have averted social ills in that it is possible for any individual to climb up the social ladder if he is able and creative. This healthy and stable atmosphere has become a rare example in this troubled world and a great advantage that we have to safeguard and maintain despite conspiracies and unfavourable conditions.

As far as our regional environment is concerned, we enjoy strong and close relations with our Arab brethren. We have always viewed ourselves as an integral part of the Greater Arab World, and we have dealt with it in the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt maintaining this stand in all our agreements and commitments. We have never let down our Arab brothers nor have we abrogated any pacts with them. We have reciprocated good will and upheld our position in the core of the Arab Order in code and conduct. This stand does not stem from any selfish or material interests but rather from the belief that Arab complementarity and solidarity enhance their status in the world and paves the way for the achievement of their objectives. I have called for reviving Arab economic integration, especially in these circumstances in which various world regions have found acceptable formulae for cooperation and useful integration. We Arabs have added reasons to unify our regional economies particularly since we have the common denominators of history, religion, language, heritage and destiny and it is important to activate these components. Others have accomplished a lot more with less common elements. Europeans, for example, have found a civilised formula to interact in spite of the lack of harmony among their nations in terms of language, history and culture and in spite of numerous memories of conflict and antagonism.

Jordan's faith in unity does not emanate solely from sentiment but also from a clear vision of the needs of the future and what it entails in terms of challenges and difficulties. Arab economic complementarity forms a corner-stone for the comprehensive Arab Order and we in Jordan must bear this in mind and conform to it in our plans and programmes and propagate it in thought and action.

Jordan has, during the past decades, built a cumulative inventory of achievements that has been added to with every successive generation. This treasure is the solid foundation for the construction of modern Jordan with an economy that is productive and capable of furnishing the means to satisfy current and future needs.

Experience has taught us that the process of construction will invariably suffer from momentary set-backs which spill over to us from abroad by virtue of our close connections with the outside world. We must build our innate administrative ability to face and contain new developments in order to maintain constant progress; thus, our institutions must keep their active role, to safeguard our accomplishments and defend them in the face of destabilising shocks. Desirable change depends on rational behaviour, and reasonable conduct. Moderate consumption, that preserves economic momentum and supports savings is the one compatible with our morals, traditions and system of values as stated in the Holy Koran: "Make not thy hand tied to the neck; nor stretch it forth to its utmost reach and thus become blameworthy and destitute" (Al Isra' Surah, Verse 29).

We can curtail our expenditure as we realise that extravagance is not a personal issue but rather a cost incurred by society at large. We have to innovate means of reinforcing savings and investment inclinations in order to be able to guarantee a promising future. We want investment to be open to all honest citizens, (residing inside or outside Jordan) on an equal footing. Regardless of our positions and locations, we are all equal in access to productive work and in reaping its benefits. Waste is not confined to consumption habits, for investment expenditure can also be squandered. We always have to bear in mind that a feasible investment project is one that becomes operational at the lowest possible cost. There is no need for spending on unproductive components or for expanding the volume of a project to levels whereby it loses its competitiveness. Instead of purchasing new equipment we have to learn to utilise available machinery to the utmost and optimal levels of performance. Within this framework, we have to innovate methods of exploiting our natural resources and our scientific and research potential. We must master the capability of providing distinctive and high quality products that gives the buyer, at home and abroad, a fair return for his money. Control over spending at the individual and family levels and in factories and institutions, is what will lessen our dependence on importation and enhance our ability to export and consequently secure the needed financing for new projects. The nations that boast of excessive and uncontrolled expenditures deprive themselves of the possibility for continuous growth and place themselves hostage to the whims of others. We realise that the opportunities for low-cost financing have diminished and that we cannot from now on, undertake any unproductive or unstudied expenditure.

We must develop our citizens' eagerness to care for and protect the country's resources and to perform voluntary work. The citizen should no longer remain isolated from his country's needs. There is a vast potential in our youth, retired citizens, women and students that can be mobilised into a tremendous force serving of the country's needs in agriculture, afforestation, conservation of the environment and community service. We must develop integrated programmes that will enable these energies to serve their country. A citizen who is actively serving his country has an unshakable faith in his country and its future. To ensure popular participation in developmental efforts and the equitable distribution of its benefits we must attempt to strike a balance between the population dimension on the one hand and the geographic distribution of resources on the other. These two dimensions deserve our utmost consideration and care. Jordan, as you know, is still among the leading countries in population growth, and according to U.N. statistics, the second country in the world in birth rate ratios. Regardless of the size of the population, the increase in birth rates, entails big challenges including the high ratios of children and consequently, an increased demand for basic requirements such as shelter, education, health care and job opportunities. As long as population distribution is concentrated in the capital and its suburbs, we will be depriving ourselves of opportunities for investment in natural resources and production potential in other regions of Jordan. We have to adopt a developmental policy that would give the regions growth opportunities which would enable them to reach the highest levels of productivity allowing them to actively interact with the national economy.

Regional developmental efforts should be coupled with a clear perception of administrative and financial requirements in order for the effort to be relevant to the environment in which developmental projects are established. In all cases, clarity and good preparation are prerequisites for desirable developmental ends. In speaking of a regional development the badia/desert areas emerge as a special case worthy of attention and care. This promising and vast section of our country, must be a corner-stone of our new approach.

This area, large though it is, needs added developmental input to enable it to catch up with the rest of the country. The badia and its people have always been the source of our pride and confidence, and we have no doubt that after the accomplishment of infrastructural projects, its area will become a bastion for prime production and a source of good and respectable living for many of our citizens, particularly members of the Armed Forces. If we succeed in transforming the badia into a focal region that attracts population then we can be confident that our expenditure in it will yield fruitful results. I look forward to seeing concrete administrative arrangements and tools that would guarantee the achievement of this objective.

Development in Jordan is basically dependent upon the human element, therefore it is imperative that we place a lot of emphasis on the human being and on equipping him with training and useful scientific tools. In this sense we were gratified with the results of the educational reform conference which called for deep-rooted structural reform of the educational sector.

The preparation and qualification of teachers, the stress on laboratories and suitable buildings, and the development of modern curricula, constitute the prerequisites for success in vitalising this important sector. We must teach our children and youth creative thinking and instill in them proper ethical values. If we succeed in this undertaking we will have guaranteed an essential portion of success in our struggle for construction and productivity. It is also important to ensure that our institutes of higher learning and our universities have the capability of graduating batches of learned, cultured and specialised students. University education must address the priorities and needs of the country for it to become instrumental in achieving parity between supply of and demand for manpower, thus avoiding structural imbalances in the labour market and the ensuing waste of money and energy and the rise in unemployment.

Development is not complete unless it caters to human needs and demands. A productive and creative person expects his country to provide him with his basic needs and reasonable requirements. For this reason, administration of social sectors should be directed mainly towards furnishing those requirements within reason. Schools, health clinics and youth centres must be built within a framework of coordination and harmonious integration to serve the citizen and deepen his sense of belonging. In this way we would raise the standard of social services from the mere level of extending grants to one of inducing more participation.

Agriculture has always been a basic source of production and job opportunities, and therefore has to continue receiving our attention as the pivot of economic activity in the countryside. However, we have to utilise what experience we have gained to enhance productivity and diversify output as well as increase our self-reliance in food production. We must keep in mind the need to gradually attain self-sufficiency and even think in terms of exporting surplus production in the future. Needless to say, we should pay more attention to forestry with the hope that we can transform our country into an attractive green oasis. Let the year 2000 be, God willing, a season to celebrate a green Jordan in which every inch of fertile land is developed.

Our land conceals many treasures; some yet to be explored. Available data indicates that energy sources are abundant and could, at this very moment, satisfy all our needs were it not for cost considerations. Our land also contains many elements that can be utilised in existing and new industries. We must have a long range plan to exploit our natural resources in order to satisfy our needs. This also requires that we become more sensitive to the environment; conserving it and protecting it from pollution.

"We made from water every living thing" (the Holy Koran, Al Anbia Surah, Verse 30). Although we have covered a lot of ground in our quest for water, the demand for this vital resource is on the rise. Consequently, we must implement a national programme to identify water sources and, methods of utilising and conserving it. Water has to stay high on our list of priorities as it has a great impact on our daily life and our future.

Nature has not been extremely generous to us in material resources but it has lavished on us its beauty in the mountains, valleys, seashore and desert. Moreover, Jordan's location has enabled it to host a variety of civilisations that flourished on its soil over thousands of years. These civilisations, of which history which abound in Jordan have made it a vast museum attracting people from all parts of the world and from all walks of life. Many countries have compensated for their scarcity of resources by developing their tourism industry. It is high time we concentrated our attention on the tourism sector, not only by providing better hotels and means of communication and transportation, but also by good interaction with tourists and by training competent personnel to work in this vital sector.

Our recent experience in the last few weeks has demonstrated to us the importance of self-reliance as well as the importance of the building-up of our national potential. But more importantly, it has made us realise that self-indulgence will reflect on us negatively. Efficient resource-management and allocation have to remain the primary concern in our economic policy. We have to realise fully that modern management is not merely general perceptions and broad ideas, it is also precise decisions that require good organisation and response, and prompt thinking and planning. This necessitates the availability of correct data and good processing of information, the latter making it readily accessible to the decision-maker. It is not possible for decision-makers to provide solutions in the absence of precise information and right scientific methodology. Thus, the gathering of data, its organisation and classification, remain a vital part of the process of good economic management.

Good management in turn requires a creative environment that unleashes latent potential by providing it with the opportunity to participate in the building of the nation. We do not want the institutions that we have built to be inert structures but dynamic working cells that guarantee each and everyone's right according to merit; that appreciate the effective producer regardless of his managerial status, and that is intolerant with the laggards and the corrupt. By harnessing the specialised capabilities and efficacious institutions we will be capable of transforming the available opportunities into a concrete reality.

We also have to learn proper financial resources management so as to direct public spending towards priorities that serve our goals and that allow us to conquer the obstacles in the way, and bring us closer towards dispensing with loans and aid wherever possible.

Keeping in mind our enormous investment in education and manpower training we need to emphasise the role of science in the process of production, and to concern ourselves with scientific research and advancement of technology. Jordan is capable through this sector to participate in problem-solving and to assume a leadership role in industry and advanced technological services. Furthermore, it can become a centre of excellence, capable of serving the nation and assisting it in filling the gap that separates it from the developed world.

Thus, you see that ahead of us lie many years of dedicated and continuous work that can only be done in a climate of responsible economic freedom and enlightened individual initiative. The relationship between the individual and society has to be subject to set criteria according to the ability to give and reciprocity of interests. The phase of dependence on government as the all-provider and the main source of national wealth is over.

It is time for us to support and assist the government in fulfilling its role in terms of organisation and harmony amongst the various segments of society, as we move ahead towards progress and prosperity through creativity and production. The public sector cannot replace the private sector in the fields of industry, tourism, commerce, agriculture and transportation, among other fields. These activities and others pertain to the private sector.

It is time for us to reshuffle responsibilities between the public and the private sectors in a way suitable to this phase of production and sufficiency. This requires promptness in decision-making and decentralisation of authority, as well as the organisation of lines of communication amongst the various departments and institutions and between the regions and the centre.

The economic process is meaningless in an unstable and insecure country. It cannot function if the country is an easy prey to aggressors. Thus, our ability to build up our defence capability remains an essential element in the process of economy building.

If we provide the country with the necessary production base, we will also be providing our armed forces with the opportunity to depend more on our national economy which will reduce the cost of defence procurement and replenishment.

The phase ahead of us is one of comprehensive reform and adaptation and we are a country known for its ability to adapt. This, in fact, is a measure of our strength and success. It is certain that we have the necessary prerequisites to enable us to become a self-sufficient and productive society and, God willing, we will achieve our goals.

And say unto them "work" and God will witness your work as will his messenger and the faithful (Al Tawbah Surah, Verse 105).

A message from the PLO: Give peace a visa

By Bassam Abu Sherif

The following article appeared Monday, Nov. 28 in the London-based *Mideast Mirror*. The writer is advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

SOME five months ago, I wrote a position paper that attracted some attention in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The paper said, in essence, that the Palestine Liberation Organisation wants peace and security for the Palestinians and the Israelis alike, "because no people deserves less and because no one can build his own future on the ruins of another's."

It proposed immediate talks between the PLO and Israel in the context of an international conference on the Middle East, toward a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli problem that would finally bring peace to all the states of the region, including Palestine and Israel.

The paper was complimented as an apparently sincere expression of one Palestinian's acceptance of Israel and his desire to coexist with it, and it was dismissed as unimportant for the same reason: that it was the "unauthoritative" position of one man who had neither the mandate to represent the PLO nor the power to sway it.

On November 15, what I said in the article was stated in greater detail by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's highest authority.

But the declarations of the PNC, authoritative as they are, and applauded though they were by most countries, including the twelve members of the European Community, were rejected as an act of war by Israel and shrugged off as inadequate by the U.S. administration.

This U.S. administration went one step further: On November 26, 12 days after the PNC waved the olive branch, the American State Department announced that it was denying the chairman of the PLO, Mr. Yasser Arafat, permission to visit the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, to which he had been invited by the international community.

If the U.S. Secretary of State thought that by taking this decision he was undermining the position of the PLO, I believe he will discover in the not too distant future that he has done no such thing.

His decision, however, has not been totally ineffectual.

It has succeeded in giving credibility to the charges that have been made against the Reagan administration since it became clear that, for all its statements to the contrary, it was supporting, aiding and abetting Israel in its policy of terror against the men, women and children of the Palestinian people — including the charge that this administration is teetering on the brink of moral bankruptcy, and that its key decision-makers, not excluding Mr. Shultz, are more susceptible to the pressures exerted by Israel and the American minority that support its atrocities than to the support of a superpower of America's stature.

It has also succeeded in outraging the international community and increasing global doubts about the wisdom of trusting a government so blatantly biased with the keys to the gates of the United Nations Headquarters.

And it has substantiated the objections of many in the PLO who have long held that no matter how earnestly we offer Israel peace, Israel will offer us nothing but war; and that no matter how far we go to demonstrate our peaceful intentions, the Reagan administration will demonstrate nothing but contempt for the Palestinians and their rights; because what Israel and the Reagan administration want is not an opening to peace but an opening to a peace that excludes the PLO and therefore a peace that rules out the Palestinian national rights for which the PLO stands.

I confess that view seems more valid to me today than it did a few weeks ago, but since neither I nor the majority of my colleagues are anxious to trade the peace pipe in just yet, I still cling to one shred of hope: that Mr. Shultz and the Reagan administration is speaking for itself and not for the American people or for Mr. Baker and the Bush administration. It is on that assumption, and in

response to the various doubts that have been voiced about PLO's new policy that I offer the following clarifications to anyone who cares to listen:

It has been said that Palestinian Declaration of Independence is unacceptable because it is a unilateral act that was not arrived at through negotiations.

We believe the act was multi-lateral. The entire world gave the Palestinian people the right to independence and sovereignty on three separate occasions: in 1919, when the League of Nations passed Article 22 of its Charter; in 1923, when the great powers signed the Treaty of Lausanne; and in 1947, when the U.N. adopted Resolution 181, which partitioned Palestine into a Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

Those who disagree with us argue that those three documents, all signed by the U.S., have been overtaken by events. Our view is that such arguments undermine the credibility of the great powers and promote the cynical notion that justice is a perishable product — and that view seems to be shared by the 60-odd states that have recognised the Palestinian state so far.

But that is our view, and we are not demanding that it be accepted as a precondition to our participation in the peace talks, nor are we prepared to accept a demand that we relinquish it as a precondition to such participation.

It has been said that acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 was "cancelled out" by our simultaneous invocation of other U.N. resolutions, which, our critics say, cast doubt on the legitimacy of the state of Israel.

Our critics have probably not read the pertinent PNC decision carefully. It states that the international peace conference should "be held on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the safeguarding of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the right to self-determination... in accordance with the U.N. resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue."

We have always had reservations about Resolution 242 because it makes no provisions for the Palestinians' national rights, referring to the Palestinian issue only as a refugee problem. We accepted the resolution nevertheless, not only as one of two cornerstones for the international conference, the other cornerstone being the national rights of the Palestinians. As clearly indicated in the text, the U.N. resolutions referred to are the resolutions that pertain to those rights and not the resolutions that "cast doubt on the legitimacy of Israel."

Those who ask us to accept Resolution 242 as it stands, with no ands, ifs and buts, are asking us to relinquish our rights as a precondition to the initiation of negotiations aimed at the recovery of our rights. That is patently illogical and unacceptable. If the proposed negotiations are intended to legitimise our present disfranchisement, we agree with our critics that we do not qualify as reliable participants.

It has been said that the PNC did not renounce terrorism. The fact is that the PNC renounced terrorism twice. It renounced it once in the Declaration of Independence, when it said that "the State of Palestine declares its belief in the settlement of international and regional disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations; and its rejection of threats of force or violence or terrorism and the use of these against its territorial integrity and political independence or the territorial integrity of any other state."

It renounced it again in the political statement that accompanied the Declaration of Independence, in which it was stated that the PNC "once more announces its rejection of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, emphasising its commitment to the resolutions it adopted in the past on this subject, and to the resolutions of the Arab summit in Algiers in 1988, and to U.N. Resolutions 42/159 of 1967 and 61/40 of 1985, and to what was stated in this regard in the Cairo Declaration of Nov. 7, 1985."

Normally, that would be clear

enough. Normally, the PNC would not need to add that the Palestinians, while renouncing terrorism, reserve the right to protect themselves from terrorism. But these are not normal circumstances. The Israelis have somehow convinced many in the U.S. and elsewhere that when an Israeli soldier kills a Palestinian, expropriates Palestinian land and water, burns Palestinian crops, demolishes Palestinian houses, breaks Palestinian bones and generally makes a Palestinian's life intolerable, he is engaging in legitimate self-defence, but that when a Palestinian boy throws a stone at that soldier, he is engaging in terrorism.

The PNC thus felt compelled to add that, while renouncing all forms of violence and terrorism, the Palestinian people reserved the right, as granted by U.N. resolutions, to "resist foreign occupation" and "defend its territory and independence."

If resistance of foreign occupation and defence of territory and independence are now defined as terrorism in the U.S. and Israel,

Resolution 242 affirmed, among other things, the right of all states in the Middle East, including Israel, to live in peace within secure borders. But explicitly accepting it and endorsing it as one of the bases on which an international Middle East peace conference should be convened, the PNC has explicitly recognised Israel's right to exist.

Why, some have asked, did the PNC take this circuitous route to the recognition of Israel? Why didn't the PNC simply state: "We recognise the state of Israel and its right to exist in peace within secure borders?"

The question is legitimate, and the answer is that neither I nor the PNC — nor, for that matter, the United States — recognise Israel as it stands today, in control of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and determined, according to the repeated pledges of Yitzhak Shamir, his Likud Bloc and their various allies, to hold on to them.

By accepting Resolution 181, the PNC recognised Israel as one of the two states that share the

can live in peace and equality — has been superseded by the decisions of the PNC, the author of the Charter.

By endorsing a two-state solution, the PNC has abandoned the one-state solution mentioned in the Charter.

In essence, the Charter was a rejection of the U.N. partition resolution of 1947. The PNC has now withdrawn that rejection and by so doing annulled the sections of the Charter that have caused so much consternation in Israel, the U.S. and elsewhere.

It has been said that statements made by certain members of the PLO before and after the announcement of the PNC decisions contradict the letter or spirit of those decisions, confirming suspicions that the PNC statements constitute a tactical retreat from the maximalist demands of the PLO and not a final abandonment of them.

Some have gone so far as to say that the "insincerity" of the PNC decisions was established in advance by the mere presence at the Algiers conference of a person or persons charged with acts of terrorism.

I am at a loss to understand the logic of this objection. When I and others from the PLO make statements or take actions that can only be construed as peaceful in intent, those are rejected as a basis for negotiations on the grounds that they represent personal views and do not have the authority of the PLO behind them. And yet, when other members of the PLO make statements that are perceived to be belligerent, those statements, which are also expressions of personal views and do not have the authority of the PLO behind them, are deemed sufficient to negate the officially adopted and publicly announced policies of the PNC.

Let me set the record straight on this point: The decisions of the PNC were approved by majority vote, with 253 voting in favour, 46 voting against, and 10 abstaining. This means that at least 46 and possibly 56 members of the PNC do not approve of its new policies.

Their disapproval, however, casts no shadow on the PNC decisions — any more than the disapproval of over 40 per cent of the American people casts a shadow on the presidency of Mr. George Bush.

It boils down to this: The Palestine Liberation Organisation has officially changed its position from one of total rejection of Israel's right to exist as an exclusive Zionist state to one of full acceptance of Israel under the terms of Security Council Resolution 242, which requires Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967.

The PLO, which once refused on principle to hold talks with Israel, has now officially expressed its desire for negotiations with Israel in the context of an international peace conference aimed at the achievement of a two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

The PLO's past programme, which sought the liberation of Palestine by armed struggle, has now officially been replaced by a policy that seeks "the settlement of international and regional disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations" and rejects the threat or use of "force or violence or terrorism" by the Palestinians or the Israelis — as clearly stated in the Palestinian Declaration of Independence.

These major policy changes are not a "PR gimmick" or "dust in the world's eyes" or the opening move of a diabolical scheme for the phased annihilation of Israel. They are an honest expression of the Palestinian majority's belief that the State of Palestine can coexist alongside the State of Israel.

This peace offer does not come from circus performers willing to jump through endless hoops for a cube of sugar, or from panhandlers begging for a handout and ready to take all kinds of abuse for it. It comes from a people who have rights, who have been stripped of those rights, who are determined to regain them, and who have now decided to believe the Israelis, Americans, Soviets, Europeans and others who have been assuring them that those rights can be regained by peaceful means.

In offering our hand, we were gambling that it would not be lapped off. In extending the olive branch, we were hoping that it would not be used to flog us.

The responses of Israel and the U.S. administration so far suggest that it was a bad gamble and a naive hope. They suggest that PLO moderation makes the Israeli and American administrations uncomfortable. They suggest that the people in charge in Tel Aviv and Washington want to provoke the PLO into dropping all peace offers, using this as a cover for the continued enslavement and persecution of the Palestinian people.

My hope now is that Washington 1989 will differ from Washington 1988 and give peace a visa.

If I am once more risking a charge of gullibility, that is a small price to pay compared with the disaster I fear will strike us, the Israelis, the Mideast and everyone with interests in that region when hope runs out.

Korean solidarity with Palestinian people

The following is a message by Kwang Soo Choi, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Nov. 29.

AS THE people of the world again observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the people and government of the Republic of Korea would like to join the international community in reiterating full support of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national independence.

The whole world expressed great concern over the recent disturbances in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In this regard, the government of the Republic of Korea stated in February 1988 that it deplored the acts of violence which had already caused heavy casualties, among Palestinian civilians and it strongly urged Israel to take necessary measures to comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Being well aware that the question of Palestine is the key element to the solution of the Middle East problem, the government of the Republic of Korea warmly welcomes the Declaration of 15th November 1988 of the Palestine National Council, in which the

PNC has accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 for the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine.

On this occasion, reaffirming its position that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state recognised by the relevant United Nations resolution should be respected, the government wishes that the declaration could contribute to creating an international atmosphere favourable to a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

In line with the world-wide support for the cause of the Palestinian people, the government of the Republic of Korea contributed \$250,000 to the Arab Student Aid International (ASAI) in April 1988 to help sponsor scholarship for Palestinian students, by which the donation by the government to the fund totals \$1.25 million. It has so far contributed \$116,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The government of the Republic of Korea has also actively participated in international conferences and seminars on the question of Palestine held under the auspices of the United Nations.

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Experts expect \$15 a barrel oil price

TOKYO (R) — An OPEC production agreement signed in Vienna Monday will not do enough to control oil supply next year and the price of OPEC crude oil is unlikely to rise over \$15 a barrel, Far East oil experts say.

Most expect that high world-wide stockpiles, rising non-OPEC production and possible cheating on quotas by OPEC countries will limit price rises to around \$13.

The Middle East benchmark crude, from Dubai, is currently trading at around \$11.85.

"There will be a bull trend for two or three weeks because of the psychological impact (of the OPEC agreement) but it will be short-lived," said Hideo Ito of Mitsui and Company.

He said oil produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was most likely to trade between \$11 and \$13 during the first quarter of 1989.

The 13 OPEC oil ministers agreed to cut output by around four million barrels per day (b/d) to 18.5 million b/d for the first

half of 1989 to boost prices to the group's \$18 a barrel target.

"At least for the short-term (the agreement) is bullish," said Masao Ito, general manager of the petroleum supply department at Nippon Oil Company. "But in the long run there could be a lot of problems."

He said United Arab Emirates (UAE) production was the most immediate problem. The UAE would have to slash its current output in half to comply with its 987,000 b/d OPEC-assigned quota for the first half of next year.

Oil prices shed nearly \$1 on overseas markets Monday after UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba said the OPEC announced figure for the UAE's quota "does not represent its official quota."

But he later told Reuters that

the UAE was fully committed to the quota allocated to it by OPEC.

"For the time being (the UAE) won't violate its quota, but one or two months from now it will start to produce more," said Ito of Nippon Oil.

There is also a danger that Iraq will boost its production when its export capability increases next year.

"Iraq has already suggested it may want a higher production quota at the next (OPEC) meeting," said Nippon Oil's Ito. "And naturally its arch-rival Iran will also want an increase."

There was also some doubt that even a strict output ceiling of 18.5 million b/d would sustain a \$15 per barrel price for OPEC crude due to high stocks worldwide, slower demand growth and rising production from non-OPEC oil producers.

"There are very big stockpiles in Japan, the United States and Europe," said Ito of Mitsui.

U.S. oil analysts said Monday OPEC will not achieve its target price of \$18 a barrel for crude oil in the first half of 1989 because its planned production ceiling will exceed world demand and group members are likely to cheat on their quotas.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest oil producer, does not want to see \$18 a barrel oil and will not allow the \$18 target to be achieved, said Frank Knettel of Prudential-Bache Securities Inc.

At the Vienna talks, Saudi Arabia proposed that the 13-

member group defend a price floor of \$15 a barrel.

The Saudi plan almost scuttled the pact, which trims the group's production from the estimated 23 million b/d it is now pumping.

Analysts were sceptical that the landmark accord would bring back \$18 a barrel oil. They said current oil inventories are too high and they expect OPEC to exceed its 18.5 million b/d ceiling — in keeping with past behaviour.

"Eighteen dollars a barrel? They've got to be kidding," said Charles Maxwell, senior energy strategist at Cyrus J. Lawrence, Morgan Grenfell Inc.

"OPEC may say 18.5 million b/d but availability of its oil will be more like 19.5 million b/d," Maxwell said, due to drawdown of inventories and cheating on production quotas.

OPEC inventories are now around 200 million barrels and growing, Maxwell said, adding that 17.5 million b/d would be a better group output cap.

Analysts estimate 17.5 million b/d as the world demand for OPEC oil in the first half of 1989, assuming an inventory drawdown of between 1.5 million to 3.5 million b/d in the first quarter and little change in second-quarter stocks.

Analysts also said the United Arab Emirates is especially likely to exceed its production quota.

"There will probably be cheating from the UAE," said Andrew Lebow, analyst at E.D. and F. Man International Inc. "They

have been asked to cut back by 50 per cent."

For the other Gulf OPEC producers — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq — "cheating is a way of life," said Maxwell. "They have learned that the first ones who cheat get their price."

Oil industry executives shared this scepticism, expressing their doubts about the new agreement.

"I'd hesitate to call it a 'watershed,'" Chevron Corp chief economist Bill Hermann said of the new accord. "It... could be broken, as others have been in the past."

"I don't think anybody is trying to run a company based on what OPEC will do from quarter to quarter," said Al Hegburg, director of international affairs at Phillips Petroleum Co.

If OPEC sticks to its accord through the first half of next year, the world oil glut could be mopped up and prices boosted to \$18 a barrel by June, industry executives said.

But it remains to be seen whether OPEC members will maintain the \$18 price beyond that point, they added.

OPEC has set its next ministerial meeting for June 5.

U.S. banks hike prime lending rates to 10.5%

NEW YORK (AP) — Major U.S. banks boosted their prime lending rates a half percentage point to 10.5 per cent Monday, the steepest level since mid-1985 and the fourth rise this year.

The interest on many loans to Third World countries is tied to the U.S. prime rate. For Americans, the increase will mean a jump in rates on a variety of consumer loans pegged to the prime, including home-equity loans. It also will raise borrowing costs for American companies that rely on banks for financing.

Economists had been predicting a prime rate increase because interest rates in the bond markets rose recently because of inflation fears and the dollar's weakness in foreign exchange markets.

"It comes as no surprise. In fact, they (banks) seem to have held back longer than I expected," said Edward Yardeni, chief economist for the investment firm Prudential-Bache Securities Inc.

U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan also has warned of higher

short-term rates unless the government trims its huge budget deficit, the source of the dollar's woes.

"There's a building perception in the marketplace that the Fed is, in fact, tightening conditions..." said William Sullivan, an economist for the investment firm Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Sullivan and other economists predicted the Fed might soon raise its discount rate, or the interest it charges on loans to member banks. If that happened, the prime rate could be increased again, they said.

"I'd look for something (from the Fed) in the next two weeks," said Yardeni.

Chase Manhattan Bank of New York was the first institution to increase its prime rate Monday and other major banks quickly did the same.

The prime stood at 8.5 per cent at the start of the year and has been raised four times since. Monday's increase put the key lending rate at its highest level since May 20, 1985, when it was lowered a half percentage point

to 10 per cent. The prime rate reflects a bank's costs of borrowing money, including interest it pays on savings accounts or certificates of deposit.

The rate is watched closely because bankers use it as a basis for calculating loans to businesses and for determining many types of fixed and adjustable-rate consumer loans.

"It's clear that consumers will be absorbing higher borrowing costs in December or early next year," said Sullivan.

Economists were uncertain as to what effect the latest increase would have on the economy.

James Kochan, chief fixed-income strategist for Merrill Lynch Capital Markets Inc., said, "I think the direct effect is pretty small because generally consumers aren't affected by a modest increase in interest rates."

Bush reported against higher indirect taxes

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said Monday that President-elect Bush opposes higher indirect taxes, such as excise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, as well as increased personal income taxes.

"No new taxes. No more taxes. That's what I saw reading the vice president's lips," Brady said in a television interview.

Asked whether the financial markets were sceptical about Bush's ability to reduce the \$155 billion U.S. federal budget deficit, Brady said the markets have fluctuated somewhat since the Nov. 8 election but not more than usual.

"It doesn't worry most observers," he said.

He noted the dollar was higher now than it was a year ago against 15 out of 20 leading currencies. "Stability is what we've got and stability is what we're after," he said.

Brady said cutting the deficit is important but reductions must come through revenues generated by economic growth and through spending cuts.

Bahrain pins hope at becoming world arbitration centre

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain is revamping its trade laws to set up a major arbitration centre the aim of mediating in disputes between businessmen from all over the world.

Commerce officials say the government will launch an international advertising campaign for the project when new laws for handling foreign commercial disputes are ready.

"The commerce and legal affairs ministries are working together to draw up legislation," said Hassan Zainalabedin, first vice-president of Bahrain's Chamber of Commerce.

"The arbitration centre will have its own framework but must work within Bahrain's commercial law," he told Reuters.

Arbitration is less time-consuming than going to court, he said. He gave no details on how Bahrain's trade laws would be altered and, legal officials declined to comment.

Zainalabedin said Bahrain would urge international law firms to set up on the island and would seek an internationally-known figure to be the centre's director.

"We are in the early stages now but would like to begin taking action within six months to one year — we must act quickly while the idea is still fresh in people's minds," he said.

Commerce Minister Habib Kasseem said Saturday the centre would be separate from another planned for Bahrain by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to handle trade disputes within the region.

Trade officials said the idea for the regional centre stemmed from growing trade, and increasing numbers of trade disputes, between companies in the Gulf and Europe.

"Many cases have remained deadlocked in court because there was no common legal umbrella under which a solution could be found," said an official who wished to remain anonymous.

In October 1987 members of

the Euro-Arab Arbitration Congress meeting in Bahrain suggested the island widen its plans to host a regional arbitration centre, and create a world-wide one as well.

"It is a good idea to have a seat of arbitration in a country in the developing world," said Fethi Kemiche, head of the Paris-based Euro-Arab arbitration system.

"One can easily imagine a Japanese and a Saudi businessman meeting for this purpose in Bahrain," he told Reuters by telephone.

He said it was not clear to which set of international arbitration rules the centre would refer. He added that the Euro-Arab body, which represents the Euro-Arab chambers of commerce, had agreed to provide technical assistance and support.

"We think the project can be established in Bahrain considering its position and what has been done in so few months," he said.

Bahrain ratified the 1958 New York Convention on recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards last March. Only a handful of Arab countries have joined the convention because Israel is a member.

Abdulrazak Zainalabedin, head of foreign trade in the commerce ministry, said Bahrain had ratified the convention on condition it was not bound by Israeli arbitration decisions.

He said trade disputes on the island usually involved agreements between principals and agents, claims of non-payment and claims that goods were sub-standard.

Hassan Zainalabedin said arbitration complied with Islamic principles because it was within the tradition of "sulh," meaning reconciliation in Arabic.

"Arbitration will be successful because it is less time consuming than going to court and it involves compromise by both sides — in a court case one wins and one loses," he said.

Bahraini businessmen said they welcomed the idea.

"It is long overdue," said Jamil Ali Ebrahim, head of Ali Ibn Ebrahim Group.

"A trade arbitration centre is good because it signifies cooperation — and if a third party arbitrates, no one will lose face," he said.

CBS Sony to sharply cut Japan record production

TOKYO (R) — CBS Sony Group, the wholly-owned Japanese subsidiary of Sony Corporation, will slash production of records for sale in Japan and shift to compact discs and tapes instead, a company spokesman said.

The company, a former joint venture between Sony and CBS Inc's CBS Records Group until Sony bought out the American broadcaster's recording unit in January this year, will start the shift early next year.

"We will recall and scrap slow-selling records from next February," said the spokesman.

"There has been strong, heal-

thy demand for compact discs since the beginning of this year. But we will continue to produce strong-selling records," the spokesman said.

CBS Sony sells nine times more compact discs in Japan than records, he said. He did not provide details of recent sales or say whether the company planned similar moves in other parts of the world.

CBS Sony planned to allocate staff and money involved in the record section to the video production and audio-visual sections, the spokesman said without elaborating.

Lawson begins to lose image of invincible

LONDON (AP) — Britain's economy, considered a miracle of the West just eight months ago, is being buffeted by resurgent inflation, high interest rates and a record trade deficit.

In March, Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson was hailed as the invincible economic wizard who had cured the British economy of high inflation, unemployment and interest rates.

But government figures issued last week showed the current account deficit had quadrupled to £2.43 billion (\$4.5 billion) in October, prompting the ninth interest rate hike since June. The commercial banks' base lending rate is now 13 per cent, while the annual inflation rate is at 6.4 per cent.

With that spectre of higher borrowing costs and lower exports, suddenly the government's policies and Lawson's political future are being questioned, not just by traditional critics like the opposition Labour Party but by some members of Lawson's Conservative Party.

Today, Lawson goes from speech to speech defending his strategy of using higher interest rates to choke off inflation, which

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher says is her top economic priority.

Although Lawson maintains otherwise, that strategy does not yet appear to be working, and critics say it is a painful way to cure Britain's economic ills.

Ironically, those ills stem from too much of a good thing: An extraordinary consumer boom brought on partly by the tax cuts Lawson announced in March.

The big risk is that the higher interest rates will prompt a recession, the critics say.

Lawson, who has promised a soft landing next year for the overheating economy, came under particularly sharp attack Friday when the government announced the current account deficit, which includes "invisible trade" such as services.

The ensuing interest rate increase brought the benchmark rate to its highest level in nearly four years. Stock prices plunged more than two per cent Friday, and the pound moved higher against foreign currencies.

"Certainly, the economy is not the way he wants it," Leo Doyle, a British economist at the London investment firm Kleinwort Greaveson Ltd., said in an interview.

"With Conservative MPs (members of parliament) grumbling about soaring mortgage costs and labour convinced that the government at last is vulnerable over the handling of the economy, the gossip at Westminster has reached a fevered pitch," the Financial Times wrote.

Chancellor since 1983, Lawson

is the longest serving treasury head since World War II, and November hasn't been a good month for him.

In his Nov. 1 autumn statement, an annual speech which is part of Britain's budgetary process, his new economic forecasts were sharply at odds with his previous predictions.

Two weeks later came fresh embarrassment when journalists

quoted him as suggesting restricting government benefits for the elderly. The treasury denied the reports, but when challenged to check its tape recording of the remarks, said the machine had malfunctioned.

Conservative John Biffen, a former cabinet minister, said on BBC television that Lawson "clearly has a problem of confidence" and suggested he was in "a very exposed position."

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	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	465.0	467.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.6	382.5
Pound Sterling	254.8	259.1	Dutch guilder	237.5	238.7
Deutschemark	267.7	269.0	Swedish crown	77.0	77.4
Swiss franc	320.0	321.6	Italian lira (for 100)	36.2	36.4
French franc	78.4	78.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	127.7	128.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8420/30	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1950/60	Canadian dollar	
	1.7320/30	Deutschemark	
	1.9530/40	Dutch guilder	
	1.4475/82	Swiss franc	
	36.28/31	Belgian franc	
	5.9150/200	French franc	
	1283/1284	Italian lire	
	121.65/75	Japanese yen	
	6.0520/300	Swedish crowns	
	6.4900/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.6760/810	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	422.40/422.90	U.S. dollars	

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Dubai's airline to start Tehran flights

DUBAI (R) — Emirates Airlines, flag-carrier of Dubai, will start flights to Tehran soon, the official emirates news agency WAM reported Tuesday. It quoted the airline's chief Sheikh Ahmad Ibn Said Al Maktoum, as saying it had received permission from the Iranian authorities for a weekly flight between Tehran and Dubai. Iran Air flies to Dubai daily. Maktoum also said his airline, formed in 1985, planned to buy a new Airbus passenger plane in the next two months and a Boeing-727 next year to meet a growth in business. He expected the company's fleet to increase to nine aircraft by 1993.

AMF approves \$500m for Arab trade

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has approved a \$500 million programme to finance Inter-Arab trade exchanges, a senior official said here Monday. Dr. Abdullah Al Kuwari, AMF director-general, said the programme would be operational next March, adding that it would benefit all AMF member states. The programme aims at promoting Inter-Arab Trade exchanges through financing export-import deals thus boosting competitiveness among Arab exporters. According to AMF sources, goods to be covered under the programme would include all commodities other than oil. The programme would operate independently from AMF, they added. The sources noted that AMF would pay 50 per cent of the capital, while the other half would come from member states, financial institutions, non-governmental bodies and joint Arab-foreign banks.

Chinese inflation climbs to new high

BEIJING (AP) — The official inflation rate soared in October to a post-1950s high of over 26 per cent and likely will continue rising through December, the State Statistical Bureau has said. The announcement was gloomy news for government leaders who nearly two months ago began an austerity drive designed to curb inflation below 10 per cent. However, the official Xinhua news agency quoted the bureau as saying panic buying has "almost ended" and that bank savings, drawn down sharply during the worst of the panic in August and September, were returning to normal. Most recently, there have been reports of panic buying of textiles in Shanghai and salt in 19 areas, where authorities immediately imposed rationing.

Iran to increase oil sales to Australia

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Australia have signed a memorandum on agricultural and mining cooperation and agreed to increase Iranian crude oil sales to Australia, Iranian television said Tuesday. It said the agreement, signed in Tehran by Australian Primary Industry and Energy Minister John Kerin Monday, covered agricultural training, poultry raising, pasture management and sugar cane farming. It quoted Iranian Agricultural Minister Issa Kalantari as saying Iran's oil exports to Australia would increase. He did not give figures. Kerin said annual trade between the two countries was worth \$260 million, with Australian exports amounting to \$250 million, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Kerin told Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati that Australia wanted to take on a bigger share in rebuilding Iran's economy after its war with Iraq. "We are waiting for the Islamic republic to announce its priorities," said Kerin, who later left for New Delhi at the end of a four-day visit to Iran.

IBM, Fujitsu settle dispute

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) will receive \$237 million from Japan's Fujitsu Ltd. in settlement of a long-standing legal dispute over copyrights on IBM software, arbitrators in the case said Tuesday. IBM had charged Tokyo-based Fujitsu with "extensive copying" key IBM software used to operate mainframe computers. The arbitrators announced Tuesday that Fujitsu would pay IBM the \$237 million in a lump-sum payment plus interest adjustments for continued and future use of the software the company developed based on IBM software.

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Charity match at Sports City

DEPUTISING for His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein Tuesday attended the football match between a team comprising players from Al Faisali and Al Duffatein and a team comprising players from the Ramtha and Hussein teams, held at the Sports City Stadium. Taking part in the match, which ended in a 3-1 defeat of the Faisali and Duffatein team, was the renowned French football player Michel Platini. At the end of the match, the proceeds of which will benefit the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Prince Abdullah presented Platini with a golden cup and members of the winning team with medals (Petra photo).

Johnson, weeping, vows '92 comeback

MILAN (AP) — Canadian runner Ben Johnson, weeping in front of television cameras, said Sunday he never knowingly took banned drugs and dreams of making a comeback at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. The World 100-metre champion, banned from competition for two years for being found to have used steroids at the Seoul Olympics, said he was possibly the victim of a conspiracy, but he did not elaborate. He claimed that his impressive muscular growth and his world records resulted from "13 years of dedication to track, from several hours a day, of weightlifting and exercise." Johnson, stripped of the Gold Medal in Seoul after failing to pass drug tests, gave a rare inter-

view to the Italian television network Rai, which broadcast the interview on Sunday night.

The Jamaica-born sprinter was interviewed in his Toronto home earlier in November. He looked deeply moved during the conversation. He burst into tears when talking of the difficult moments he faced after Seoul.

The interviewer, Gianni Minoli, said the shooting was suspended for about five minutes because Johnson was unable to control his sobs.

The sprinter, who still holds a world record of 9.83 seconds set at the 1987 world track championships in Rome, explained he was given a cocktail of herbs and roots before the Olympics final in Seoul.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Maradona may return to Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona said Monday he would return to Argentina to play for Boca Juniors as soon as his contract with Napoli of Italy ended in 1993. "My contract with Napoli ends in 1993 and I'll take the first plane out of Rome and come back to Argentina for good to play for Boca," Maradona told reporters on arrival at Ezeiza airport. Maradona, who led Napoli to a 4-1 victory over Italian champions AC Milan Sunday, returned to Buenos Aires to spend two days with his family. He said Argentina would put up a good defence of the World Cup in Italy in 1990.

Chess love pair apply for visa

FRANKFURT (R) — A leading Soviet woman chess player who secretly married the American team captain during a tournament in Greece applied for a U.S. immigration visa Monday, a U.S. spokesman said. Yelena Akhmilovskaya, number two in the Soviet team at the World Chess Olympiad in Salomika, married John Donaldson on Friday, and they flew to Frankfurt on Saturday. It will take about four days to process the application, Consulate spokesman Craig Springer said.

Becker heads Davis Cup team

BONN (R) — Boris Becker, back in action after a foot injury, will spearhead West Germany's challenge in next month's Davis Cup tennis final against Sweden. Becker, ranked fourth in the world, is joined by Patrick Knehn and in-form pair Eric Jelen and Carl-Uwe Steiner in the unchanged squad. The quartet have won all their three matches 5-0 in the competition so far. Becker, who had his left foot in plaster for 10 days after a ligament injury at the Stockholm Open earlier this month, seems to have recovered fully and will play in this week's masters in New York. If he has no further injury problems he will take the number one singles spot for the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg from Dec. 16 to 18. Jelen, 23, and Steeb, 21, are both strong candidates for the second singles place. They showed impressive form against some of the world's top 10 at the Stuttgart Classic event earlier this month.

Lyle and McColgan, Britain's top athletes

LONDON (AP) — Masters champion Sandy Lyle and distance runner Liz McColgan were voted Britain's top athletes of 1988 in the annual Sports Writers' Association poll Tuesday. Lyle, who also won the British masters and narrowly missed topping the U.S. Professional Golfers' Association tour money-winning list, gained 224 points in the balloting to easily beat two Olympic champions — swimmer Adrian Moorhouse and shooter Malcolm Cooper. McColgan, a silver medalist in the women's 10,000 metres at the summer games in Seoul, drew 214 points, well ahead of another Olympian, equestrian rider Virginia Leng.

U.S. athlete goes to court

PHOENIX (AP) — Carol Cady, one of 14 U.S. track and field athletes who competed in South Africa, said the group was warmly received in that country. "They were happy to have us there," she said in an interview Monday in Phoenix, where she is attending a convention of the Athletics Congress, the governing body for U.S. track and field. "They hadn't had a meet there in 12 years. They were starved for international competition," said Cady, who is the U.S. record holder in women's discus.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unique ideas flow freely when you are not daydreaming. Harmony is sought. Along with a selfish love of family and home, an appreciation of art, music, color, style and peace permeates today's activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your personal energy gains momentum. Keep daydreams regarding one you admire in check. Intuitive ideas can be applied at your workplace.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An old financial debt is repaid. Something lost is found. Social instincts gain momentum. Take the initiative, and accept invitations.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your strength lies in quiet confidence. Discover new employment opportunities. Look inward to your talents and intuition today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Imagination is a wonderful tool if used in a positive manner. You can get out of a rut by using new ideas for a change of pace.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 23) Do what you enjoy. Get ready for action. Worry over personal relations passes. Let time work for you. Enthusiasm for goals brings results.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 22) You receive a gift through a relationship. Loving connections produce results. At ease at home and work, you find peace with your world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Use your gift of laughter. You have a well-organized plan concerning job matters. A private problem reaches a climax and is solved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Your attraction to the opposite sex is strong. Play the field, and meet new people. Find the kind of relationship you have dreamed of.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Stay clear of disputes. Others may not mean what they say. Avoid being blurted even though you are right. It is a lucky day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Someone may try to pull a fast one. Be alert. You need private time. Do what is necessary, and duck out on your own. Visit an old friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your ideas are quite appealing. Communicate with a superior. Take a break for a private meeting. Your inventiveness is useful.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Minor aggravations disappear. It is time for a change of pace. Move on to romantic and creative aspirations. Spend tonight with a friend.

Zurbriggen wins, while Tomba is disqualified

VAL THORENS (AP) — Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen won his second straight race of the World Cup skiing season Tuesday, capturing a giant slalom amid fog and rain.

Double Olympic gold medalist Alberto Tomba had the fastest start in the first run, but was disqualified for missing a gate. Zurbriggen was in first place after the first run, with enough of a lead to hold off Austria's Rudi Nierlich by 16-100th of a second. The Swiss skier's combined time was 2 minutes, 9.32 seconds.

Nierlich, who had the fastest time in the second run, was second in 2:09.38 with two more Austrians, Hans Enn and Helmut Mayer, in third and fourth place respectively. Enn's time was 2:10.02 with Mayer at 2:11.21. It was Zurbriggen's 33rd career victory. He won the opening Super-G Sunday in Schladming, Austria.

Tomba, who won the slalom and giant slalom at the Calgary Olympics February, posted the fastest intermediate time of 34.11 in the morning run. As he started the second half of the course, he lost his balance and almost sat back on his skis before recovering, but could not make a sharp right turn around the next gate. "I missed it. That's a fact," Tomba said.

Although the rules of the International Skiing Federation stipulated a skier should stop after missing a gate, Tomba continued on the course. "I just wanted to get to the bottom of the hill," he said.

The racers down the 340-metre, 47-gate course had to contend with fog on the top part of the course. There was also a light mixture of rain and snow that got heavier in the afternoon run.

Women's skiing

Les Menuires, France, Vreni Schneider, winner of two Olympic gold medals in Calgary, hopes this may finally be her year to seize the overall title in World Cup women's skiing. Last winter, she was challenging Swiss Teammate Michela Figini for the title when she fell at Aspen, Colorado, and damaged some knee ligaments. Figini went on to win the overall championship.

Two years ago, another Swiss teammate, Maria Walliser, took the title from reach in the final race. Monday, Schneider took her first step towards the season title by winning the giant slalom at this French alpine resort.

Her come-from-behind victory — she was third after the first round — boosted her chances and lifted some of the pressure on her after Figini and Walliser faltered in the first two races.

"After Schlading there was a lot of doubt on the Swiss team," she said, in reference to C. Only two Swiss women finished in the top 15 in the opening race in Austria.

"But the team is in top shape and we must be patient and it will work out for all of us," she added.

The Austrian pair Ulrike Maier and Anita Wachter have 35 points each with Schneider three points back.

But Schneider is expected to do well in the slalom races. Schneider won the Olympic title in both the slalom and giant slalom and in the 1987 world champion in giant slalom.

The women's next race is a downhill scheduled in Val d'Isere Friday. However, lack of snow in the famous French resort may cause a postponement until Monday, depending on the training runs over the next three days.

Drug testing to begin in 1990

NEW YORK (AP) — A U.S. Olympics official said drug testing of athletes preparing for the Olympics might begin as early as next spring.

Robert H. Helmick, president of the United States Olympic Committee, said he thought it reasonable that athletes be tested and that he did not believe it would violate their civil rights, according to an interview published in Tuesday's editions of the New York Times.

"Athletes should agree not only to train, but also agree to year-round random testing, which is done in a way that preserves their dignity and their civil rights," Helmick said in the interview Monday in New York.

"We do not want to interfere with athletes' rights or their personal dignity," he said.

Last week, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to a programme in which each country would test the other's top athletes twice a year. The Olympic committees of both nations must approve the agreement.

The U.S. Olympic Committee will consider the agreement at its February meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Helmick said he would discuss the details of the agreement next week in Vienna at a meeting of the executive board of the International Olympic Committee.

"We would not rule out the possibility of testing every athlete for every drug," Helmick said.

Athletes currently are tested at several major competitions, but only a few nations test athletes during training.

Tennis circuit gets ready for change

NEW YORK (R) — A turbulent year in tennis closes this week with eight of the world's premier players contesting the Grand Prix circuit finale, the Masters, at Madison Square Garden starting Wednesday.

Mats Wilander, winner of three Grand Slam events this year and a key figure in players' moves to form their own circuit, heads a field who must survive a round robin for a shot at the title, worth up to \$315,000 to the winner.

World number two Ivan Lendl, teenager Andre Agassi, Boris Becker and Steffen Edberg complete the line-up of tennis's top five.

Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, Frenchman Henri Leconte and American Tim Mayotte join a field bereft of Grand old American Jimmy Connors and Sweden's Kent Carlsson due to injuries.

Wilander, whose spectacular year has ensured him the world's number one ranking and the \$800,000 first prize in the boosy pool, has played a leading role in this stormy season.

End of an era

The 24-year-old Swede ended the tranquil, three-year reign of Lendl as number one — just three weeks short of Connors' all-time record of 159 weeks — by beating the Czechoslovak in a five-set final at the U.S. Open.

national tennis centre centre star players stood beside officials of the Association of tennis Professionals (ATP) to issue a declaration of independence — the players' intention to run their own tour from 1990.

Wilander, elected to the ATP board of directors in 1984 and vice president from 1984 to 1986, was an outspoken proponent of the ATP plan to tailor the tour to the players' benefit.

Players have argued that the current tour is too long and many object to being assigned to tournaments by the MTC.

Tournament directors and their representatives have been discussing a 1990 tour with the ATP but few details have yet emerged.

Even with the tennis world in transition, the masters should provide dramatic value.

Pride to play for

Lendl and West German Becker have pride to play for as both have been denied a Grand Slam success this year.

Edberg, the Wimbledon champion, hopes to increase his share of the 1988 Swedish monopoly of tennis's greatest prizes. Agassi, the 18-year-old American, is looking for his first major crown.

Hlasek is the most intriguing of the long-shot candidates.

The 24-year-old Swiss was badly hurt in a car accident in January but recovered to earn his first Grand Prix titles in London and Johannesburg this month.

The wins, with a runner-up finish in Brussels, have propelled him into the number eight shot in the rankings.

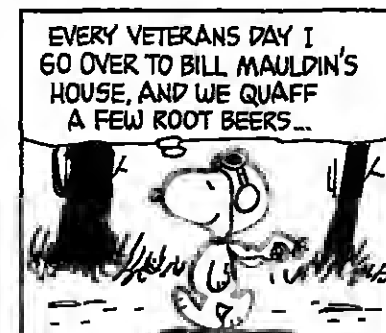


Edberg in action

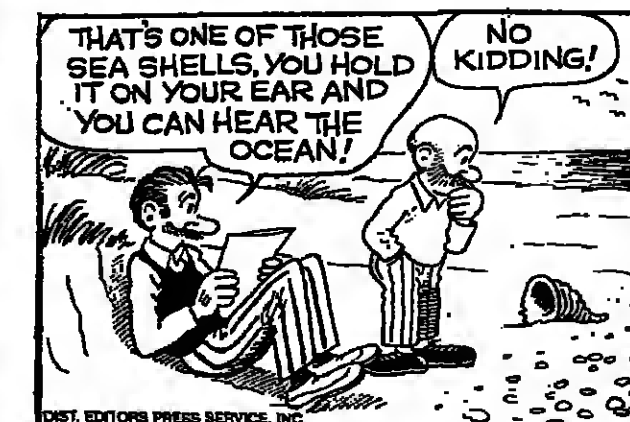
Before collecting his fourth straight U.S. Open crown, Wilander took part in the opening act of a daring plan to topple an even greater giant — the Men's Tennis Council (MTC), administrators of the world-wide circuit.

In the car park outside the

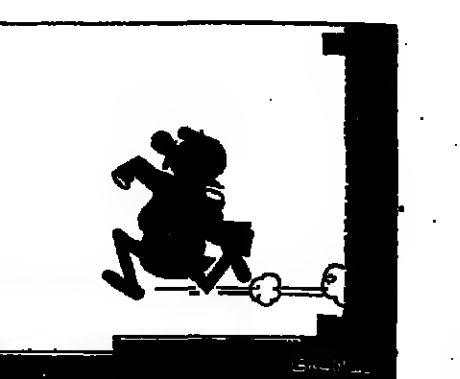
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TEEN TIGERS

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 7 3
 ♥ Q 8 4
 ♦ K Q 10 5
 ♣ 10 6 2

EAST
 ♠ K 10 5
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ A K 10 6 3
 ♣ J 9 8 7 6

WEST
 ♠ K 5
 ♥ A J 9
 ♦ A 3 2
 ♣ Q 8 7 4 3

The bidding:
 East 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠
 West 2 ♥ 3 ♥ 4 ♥
 North 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠
 Pass 4 ♠ 5 ♠ 6 ♠

Opening lead: Nine of ♠. If there's one thing we regret, it's that we didn't learn to play bridge much earlier than we did. The senior member of our writing team featured while he was at McGill University in Montreal the junior member while waiting for his scenes to be shot on movie lots. When we see how some teenagers perform today, we are filled with awe. Two of the brightest prospects on the American scene are Doug Hsieh of New York

and Richie Pavlovic of Fort Lauderdale. This hand was played at the recent Summer North American Championships, held in Salt Lake City.

South's jump to four spades was, to put it mildly, aggressive. Even a trial bid of three clubs would have been a distinct stretch. He paid dearly for his folly.

Doug West, led the nine of hearts. Since he had raised his partner's suit, that showed specifically a three-card holding. Rich won the king and found the excellent shift to the jack of clubs. Declarer's queen lost to the king, and the club return allowed East to win two more tricks in the suit as West shuffled a heart.

After cashing the ace of hearts, East led a third round. Declarer guessed wrong when he ruffed with the nine. West overruffed with the ten and still had to score the king of trumps for down four!

The best East-West could do at a heart contract was eight tricks, or nine if the defense erred grievously. Thus, the 200 earned for beating the contract four tricks was a clear top for the teen-age stars. We wish some of our partners could defend that well today!

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"A Beach Boys song came on the radio and Stanley tried surfing on my ironing board."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Leo

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SETAC
 FLABE
 YEASUN
 REPTIL

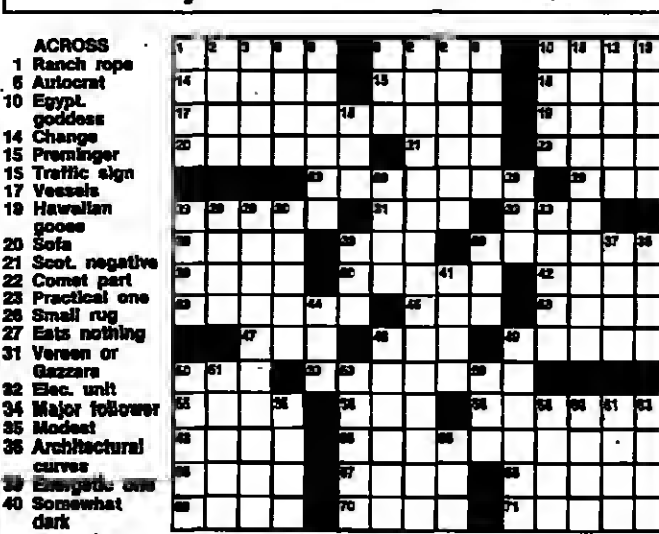


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WITH A

Yesterday's Jumble: DAILY VERVE WATERY LARYNX. Answer: When a woman "bites" for a husband she should know this—WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE.

THE Daily Crossword by Mark Harrington



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Ranch rope
 2 Antelope
 3 Egypt goddess
 4 Change
 5 Prentice
 6 Traffic sign
 7 Veasels
 8 Hawaiian goose
 9 Sofa
 10 Scot. negative
 11 Comet part
 12 Practical one
 13 Small rug
 14 Tais nothing
 15 Verve or Gazzara
 16 Elec. unit
 17 Major follower
 18 Mosaic
 19 Architectural curves
 20 Emperors' one
 21 Somewhat dark
 22 Unrestricted
 23 Thin
 24 Pro —
 25 majesty
 26 One in China
 27 Minute
 28 Sample
 29 Privately
 30 gamest
 31 Kitchen gadget
 32 Pretenses
 33 Point
 34 Blade
 35 Quilt
 36 Engine chamber
 37 Tennis great
 38 Three winning lottery numbers
 39 Trunk
 40 Conceal
 41 Once, once
 42 Scatter
 43 DOWN
 44 1 Maltin
 45 2 Der —
 46 Printer's direction
 47 Chair
 48 Abolition
 49 Ovary
 50 Autos of yore
 51 Beech
 52 Bouquet
 53 flowers
 54 Does not exist
 55 Candidates
 56 Author of quest
 57 12 Audubon Gr. colony
 58 Wheel type
 59 Drone a.p.
 60 Ben Achern
 61 25 Putting material
 62 T-men
 63 Sansas
 64 30 — firm
 65 Dought
 66 Alphabet run
 67 Training area
 68 Fit snugly
 69 Snick or —
 70 Retain
 71 Trouble signal
 72 Markman
 73 German
 74 Area
 75 Ind. state
 76 Tibetan city
 77 Social division
 78 True
 79 Subversive
 80 Markman
 81 German
 82 Area
 83 Ind. state
 84 Tibetan city
 85 Social division
 86 True
 87 Subversive
 88 Markman
 89 German
 90 Area
 91 Ind. state
 92 Tibetan city
 93 Social division
 94 True
 95 Subversive
 96 Markman
 97 German
 98 Area
 99 Ind. state
 100 Tibetan city
 101 Social division
 102 True

Papandreou sacks two ministers

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreou dismissed two ministers Tuesday after they accused pro-government labour leaders of alleged fraud and embezzlement and government members of involvement in a growing multimillion dollar banking scandal.

The dismissals came as leading afternoon pro-government and opposition dailies headlined that the administration was about to collapse due to the banking scandal.

A government announcement said Papandreou fired Deputy Education Minister Haris Kastanidis and his Undersecretary Stephanos Tzoumas because "by their personal initiatives and statements disagree with the government's policy."

Their dismissals followed the resignation of Costas Laliotis, minister without portfolio, for personal reasons, Monday.

All three ministers were sworn in Nov. 18, when Papandreou reshuffled his government for the 15th time since his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) came to power seven years ago.

Kastanidis, in a letter sent to a meeting of a World War II resistance group which supports PASOK in Salonica,



Andreas Papandreou

northern Greece, accused party leaders of dragging its feet in "cleaning up public life."

In his letter which was not read but later made public, Kastanidis said he was abstaining from appearing at the group's meeting, because "moral values are disintegrating," alluding to the Koskotas affair.

Iznmakas accused the PASOK appointed leadership of the general confederation of Greek labour of alleged fraud and embezzlement in the disappearance of tens of thousands of dollars.

The dismissals indicated growing dissatisfaction among rank and file members of PASOK who appear willing to suffer the consequences for openly criticising government handling of the banking scandal and other scandals that have come to the surface, following persistent investigative reporting by the Greek daily press.

Angola urges UNITA supporters to stop aid

LUANDA (R) — Angola said Tuesday it hoped South Africa and the United States would agree to stop supporting Angolan rebels at the latest round of peace talks starting in the Congolese capital Brazzaville.

Diplomats said the issue of aid for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels and pressure on the Angolan government to negotiate with the rebels could still derail the delicate U.S.-mediated peace process for Angola and Namibia begun in May.

A commentary by the official Angolan news agency Angop, which usually reflects government thinking, appealed to Washington and Pretoria to show flexibility and good sense in the meeting due to open in Brazzaville Tuesday.

Negotiators from South Africa, Angola and Cuba are to initial a protocol on a United Nations independence plan for South African-ruled Namibia and a timetable for the departure of the estimated 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola.

Red Army suspect waives right to jury

NEWARK, New Jersey (R) — A suspected Japanese Red Army guerrilla waived his right to a jury trial Monday in a move that could end his trial without testimony on why he was heading for New York in a car loaded with bombs last April.

The offer to waive a jury trial was made by attorney William Kunstler after he failed to have charges against Yu Kikumura, 35, dismissed.

Sources close to the case said the offer had been accepted by the prosecution and they expected legal proceedings against Kikumura to be over Tuesday without any testimony being given against him.

Had the case gone to a jury, it was expected to last four months with 75 witnesses listed to testify. Kunstler stressed that Kikumura was not pleading guilty to the charges and wanted to preserve his right to appeal a conviction to a higher court.

But he said his client was willing to admit that when he was arrested April 12 he had in his car on the New Jersey turnpike three bombs, gunpowder and lead pellets along with an array of bomb-making equipment. The car was heading towards New York City when he was arrested.

His arrest coincided with bomb attacks on U.S. facilities in Europe, the Toronto Summit of leaders of the seven major industrial nations and the second anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Libya.

Kunstler said, "We do not want to hold a show trial... we will agree to all the facts in the indictment with the provision that he does not give up his right to appeal. We will stand before you, judge, and stipulate that he had the devices and they were explosives etc."

The lawyer, known for his defence of political radicals, made his offer just after the judge rejected his plea to dismiss the case on the grounds that Kikumura's calls from prison to his lawyers from jail were secretly taped recorded.

The judge said he would not dismiss the case because there was no evidence that any of the information on the tapes reached the prosecution.

A final accord is scheduled to be signed Jan. 15.

Namibian independence and a Cuban withdrawal have been the crux of the peace talks, with Pretoria making a Cuban pull-out the prime condition for relinquishing control of mineral-rich Namibia.

"By agreeing to meet again with the South African delegates, Angola and Cuba sincerely hope that the meeting in the Congolese capital can set in motion, irreversibly, the process of implementation of U.N. Resolution 435/78 on independence for Namibia," Angop said in its commentary.

Havana and Luanda hoped that South Africa and the United States would "agree to cancel their aid to the UNITA bandits who, on the orders of Pretoria and imperialism, kill, destroy and obstruct Angola's national reconstruction."

Luanda is resisting pressure from Washington and Pretoria to negotiate with Jonas Savimbi's UNITA which has fought to topple the Angolan government.

lets along with an array of bomb-making equipment. The car was heading towards New York City when he was arrested.

His arrest coincided with bomb attacks on U.S. facilities in Europe, the Toronto Summit of leaders of the seven major industrial nations and the second anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Libya.

Kunstler said, "We do not want to hold a show trial... we will agree to all the facts in the indictment with the provision that he does not give up his right to appeal. We will stand before you, judge, and stipulate that he had the devices and they were explosives etc."

The lawyer, known for his defence of political radicals, made his offer just after the judge rejected his plea to dismiss the case on the grounds that Kikumura's calls from prison to his lawyers from jail were secretly taped recorded.

The judge said he would not dismiss the case because there was no evidence that any of the information on the tapes reached the prosecution.

Speech condemns past repressions, urges support for reform

Gorbachev envisions new country

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev, projecting a vision of a new, democratic Soviet Union, declared Tuesday the country had to break out a past repression to create an efficient, modern society.

In a 70-minute speech to the federal parliament, the Supreme Soviet, he also assured deputies he was not seeking personal power and offered an olive branch to restless republics seeking greater autonomy from Moscow.

"The steady progress of our political reform," he told a session of the body called to approve wide-ranging changes to the state constitution, "shows a new, democratic Soviet Union."

Speaking under a huge marble statue of state founder Vladimir Lenin, Gorbachev effectively condemned the rule of dictator Josef Stalin and late Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev for

bringing first injustice and then social decay.

In the early 1930s, he said in address calling for speedy passage of his reform package, "authoritarian methods of power were established and mass repressions and other violations of socialist legality became widespread."

Later, he added, ordinary people were cut off from any real participation in running the country's affairs and real control was taken over by Communist Party and government bureaucrats, leading to "the ossification of the political system."

Gorbachev, speaking in the hall of the grand Kremlin palace, admitted that the Supreme Soviet

had in the past simply rubber-stamped decisions taken elsewhere.

Under proposals certain to be approved, the 1,500 members will vote the parliamentary body in its present form out of existence and usher in a new two-tier legislature headed by an executive president with strong authority.

The proposals also include the establishment of a revised electoral system providing for multi-candidate balloting to a new Congress of People's Deputies, breaking with the practice of decades in which Soviet voters had no choice.

During a month of public discussion of drafts for the constitutional changes, even fervent supporters of Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms have expressed fears the presidency may gain too much power.

The drafts also stirred strong fears in at least five of the coun-

try's 15 republics, with Baltic Estonia in the vanguard, that loose wording could lead to stricter central control limiting their autonomy.

In his speech, delivered calmly with none of the emotion he showed at the weekend when rejecting Estonia's bid for wider autonomy, Gorbachev moved to ease concern on both issues.

The proposals put before the deputies, he declared, gave the president "enough power to organize the work of the Supreme Soviet and its Presidium, while avoiding the excessive concentration of power in one person."

"Therefore, the principle of collective leadership, traditional for the Soviet system, is preserved in dealing with state problems of key importance."

With Estonian Communist Party chief Vaino Valjas and other leaders from the republic listening from the deputies' benches,

Gorbachev promised that the next stage of the reform would firmly address the sovereignty issue.

Valjas has insisted Estonia will push ahead with reforms voted by its own parliament despite Gorbachev's rejection of them as illegal.

But the Kremlin chief appeared to attempt to avert the potential confrontation by dropping a section of the prepared text of his speech in which he described the Estonian parliament's actions as "deplorable" and unconstitutional.

The official TASS news agency included those comments in an initial report of the speech, but Gorbachev did not deliver them and TASS later withdrew the remarks.

However, Kremlin ideologist Vadim Medvedev told a news briefing later they had not been in a copy of the speech he had seen.

Thousands flee Soviet unrest

MOSCOW (R) — An Armenian official accused Azerbaijani authorities Tuesday of openly deporting Armenians, adding to the thousands from each republic who had already fled ethnic violence.

Although reports from both feuding republics said the violent clashes that killed at least 10 people last week had ended, tensions persisted and several centres, including the capitals, were under military control.

Mass meetings — in violation of curfews — continued to discuss the mainly Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is at the heart of nine months of unrest. The dispute is rooted in centuries of rivalry between Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

The unrest was debated in Moscow Tuesday during a session of the Supreme Soviet, with the president of Azerbaijan accusing Armenia of fomenting trouble in the territory.

But a spokesman for the official Armenpress news agency in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, accused Azerbaijan of adopting a policy of driving Armenians from the republic.

"The open deportation of Armenians is now taking place," he told Reuters by telephone. "The Azeris are pursuing a new policy of not killing Armenians but forcing them out of Azerbaijan."

The spokesman said so far 12,483 Armenian refugees had crossed from Azerbaijan. He said authorities expected up to 200,000 and had appealed to Moscow for food for those now housed in hotels, hostels and private homes.

A spokesman for the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry in the capital, Baku, said tens of thousands of Azeris had left Armenia, but had no exact figures.

Musa Mamedov said up to 100,000 demonstrators had assembled in Baku's Lenin Square in a round-the-clock demonstration to let-ated by military authorities.

Meetings continued in some Armenian cities, but Yerevan was quiet with public transport returning to normal and at least some factories working, according to the official.

The Azerbaijani news agency Azerinform said up to half a million demonstrators had thronged the square Monday and tents had been set up on the square for refugees.

In Yerevan, the spokesman for Armenpress said more than 1,000 people were rounded up for curfew violations and 25 placed under formal arrest.

Approving noises poured in from around the world. "Nobody can deny that there were real reasons to feel a little less ashamed of being a South African," the Johannesburg Sunday Star said in an editorial.

The financial rand, South Africa's special currency to attract foreign investment, perked up by three per cent and speculation renewed about a much-sought victory by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the new year.

Pretoria hopes its moves will ease international pressure to impose more economic sanctions against South Africa, an important factor when the economy is experiencing a slump.

But other events, showing up South Africa in a harsher light, may undo Pretoria's efforts to shed its pariah status.

On Nov. 15 a shooting spree in central Pretoria in which blacks were methodically mown down was a stark reminder of the strength of racist enmities.

A white ex-policeman, Barend Strydom, was arrested following the rampage in which seven blacks died and 12 were injured.

Authorities said he was a self-confessed member of a neo-fascist organisation which seeks to relegate non-whites to a status even more humiliating than they have now.

Methodist clergyman Peter Storey told a prayer meeting for the victims that the episode could not be regarded as isolated and was a symptom of a society where blacks are often regarded as being "one notch above cattle."

Last week far right-wingers running the town council in the Transvaal town of Bokshurg turned the clock back by starting to erect "whites-only" signs at public facilities.

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